ICONS ARE THE NEW **ORTHODOXY Timeless images from** Russia's golden age FEATURES, PAGE 18

RETURN OF THE NATIVE Middlesbrough take Gazza back to the North-east SPORT, PAGE 32



Newspaper of the Year for photographs

End of the male breadwinner

By Anthony Bevins and Diane Coyle

MINISTERS are to break one of the most patronising foundation stones of the welfare state, the idea of the male "breadwinner", by giving unemployed partners equality in the hunt for jobs.

With the Cabinet due to approve the Green Paper on welfare perform vital, unpaid service'." reform today, for publication next week, Harriet Harman, the Secretary of State for Social Security, put the new drive for equality into context last night when she told a conference

granted in the 1990s.

"In the days of Artice and Beveridge, male employment was the norm. When Beveridge set out his plans for the welfare state, he did so on the basis that most women gave up 'gainful occupation' when they got married and undertook instead 'to

Ms Harman quoted the Beveridge view: "In the next 30 years. bousewives and mothers have vital work to do in ensuring the adequate

post-war society cannot be taken for Our goal is employability for men and women."

> Yesterday, on the markets, the. pound soared to a nine-year high in reaction to the Budget - to the horror of exporters. The financial markets concluded that the Chancellor had left it to the Bank of England to steer the economy by raising interest rates again, and sent the level of sterling up in anticipation of this move. Figures suggesting the decline in unemployment is slowing were shrugged off.

Mr Brown insisted that he had done enough to squeeze growth, say-

fiscal policy with £17bn being taken ployed men - in the New Deal pro- work." "I don't think anyone can say that's anything other than a tough stance,"

If the currency markets reflected disappointment with the Budget, investors expressed their delight by taking share prices to a new record. The FTSE-100 index climbed 69 points to 5.903.6.

The first step toward equality for the female breadwinner was taken by Gordon Brown in Tuesday's Budget, with a little-noticed decision to

out of the economy over two years. gramme, under which people refusing job or training offers face benefit penalties.

But the Chancellor also anpredominantly female partners of unemployed Jobseeker's Allowance male "breadwinners", are to be offered their first chance of joining the to work". welfare-to-work programmes.

Mr Brown has allocated £60m

"Key factors taken for granted in ters at any rate, we have moved on, ing his measures added up to a tough less, under-25 partners of unem- the help they need to get back to

That view was reflected in this week's pre-Budget report on The Modernisation of Britain's Tax and Benefit System by Martin Taylor, nounced that an estimated 250,000 chief executive of Barclays Bank, who reported to the Chancellor that the implicit presumption of the benefits claimants, 95 per cent of whom are system was that "partners of unemployed people cannot or do not want

over from the days when it was asfrom the windfall tax to ensure that sumed that all men worked and their all over-25 unemployed "partners" wives did not. Today, when 47 per of unemployed claimants "receive cent of employees are women, ba-

sic benefit policy on such a notion is, to say the least, inappropriate."

The Chancellor's announcement on opportunities for the unemployed partners of unemployed claimants - urged by Mr Taylor - was the first step in cracking that inbuilt

There was a broad welcome for the detailed Budget measures to encourage small businesses and investment. Mr Brown also won praise "The existing rules seem to be left for the reforms to tax and benefits designed to make sure that work pays for those on low incomes.

Budget Aftermath, pages 6 & 7; City and Business, page 23

NHS waiting lists to be cut by 100,000 within a year

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

. HOSPITAL waiting lists will be cut by 100,000 within a year, the biggest reduction in the histo-

The pledge, which will be difficult to achieve, will mean the biggest-ever increase in the number of operations, and will require hospitals to carry out surgery seven days a week. The



On the line: Frank Dobson

drive could also trigger a politically embarrassing boom for the private sector in areas where the health service cannot cope.

Throwing down the gauntlet to the NHS and putting his political future on the line. Mr Dobson said £320m of the extra £500m for the NHS announced in Tuesday's budget would be devoted to cutting waiting lists in England which at the last count in December topped 1.26 mililion, 100,000 higher than at the election, and rising.

By April next year, I expect hospital waiting lists in England p be shorter than the 1.16 million record level we inherited from the previous government. That's the target," he said. Delivering this target would

go half way towards meeting one of Labour's five key election pledges - to cut waiting lists by 100,000 below the level at which they stood at the time of the election in May last year. It ry of the NHS, Frank Dobson, would be achieved by a mixture Secretary of State for Health, of carrot and stick, Mr Dobson [health authorities and trusts] who meet their targets and sanctions for those who do not."

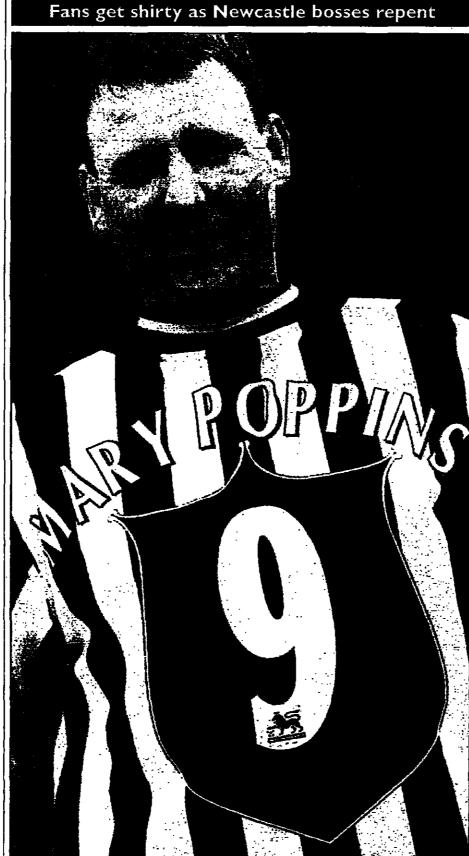
The NHS Confederation said the extra money was welcome but solved only part of the problem. The other part was finding the spare capacity in an already overstretched NHS.

Stephen Thornton, chief executive, said: "I would imagine a number of health authorities will find the best way to get the lists down will be to commission work in the private sector ... We have got to be careful to get value for money because in the mad rush for operations prices could rise."

Mr Thornton said that, viewed strictly in terms of health gain, spending to cut waiting lists was probably not the best use to which the money could be put. "But the government has come in with a political imperative to cut waiting lists. That is the political reality and we are

not complaining about it." The British Medical Association said a focus on waiting lists could mean that patients with minor conditions were treated sooner than those with more urgent ones.

James Johnson, chairman of the BMA's consultants committee, said; "We do not want to see people waiting unacceptably long times in pain and distress. But we want a broader, more sophisticated look at the problem than simply taking patients off the end of the queue."



United in anger: Newcastle fan Stephen Cockburn showing off the shirt he was planning to wear to last night's match against Crystal Palace Soccer shame, page 3 Photograph: Will Walker

Skull discovery shows that birds are descended from dinosaurs

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

TWO KEY pieces of evidence have emerged indicating that birds really are descended from dinosaurs.

The discovery of skulls of animals about the size of turkeys which lived 70 million years ago in what is now the Gobi Desert provided one key; the other was in Madagascar, where archaeologists found a 65-million-year old fossil of a raven-sized bird with dinosaurlike features.

Although the public has generally thought that fossil skeletons such as the famous Archaeopteryx, a 140-million- ed in a single, blunt claw. year old "dinosaur with wings", provided incontrovertible proof that birds evolved from dioosaurs, palaeontologists have been less sure.

In recent years, they have uggested that birds and diosaurs evolved separately,

later disappeared. Meanwhile, the warm-blooded ancestors of arately, surviving the "dinosaur killer" asteroid which hit the Rarth 65 million years ago to become the feathered animals we know today.-

But the findings in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia were of turkey-sized animals which walked on two legs, and had a number of bird-like features. Yet they also had dinosaur features: long necks and tails, and - unlike any bird living today - stubby forearms that end-

Reporting today in the science journal Nature, Luis Chiappe and researchers from the American Museum of Natural Washington University, Washington DC, say the fossils revealed an important physical theropod disosaurs.

and that the cold-blooded Ar- characteristic normally seen chaeopteryx, might have been only in birds. The animals were an accident of evolution that capable of "prokinesis" - the movement of the snont up and down independently from the birds would have evolved sep- rest of the skuft. This allowed the creature to open its mouth wide to eat large food items, and is considered an advanced characteristic of birds. "These strange creatures were actually early birds," the team said.

That in itself suggests that such an ability arose early in bird evolution - and that it bappened in the time of the di-

The second plank of evidence is reported tomorrow in the journal Science. A team led by Catherine Forster of the State University of New York found fossits of a type never before seen, including wing bones of a bird, but also a long tail History, New York, and Gorge and "a huge, sickle-shaped killing claw" that resemble such features in meat-eating

Today's news

Genetics in a can

A GOVERNMENT panel is today expected to approve a genetically engineered version of tinned tomatoes. Page 3

Regional aid loss

SOME OF the poorest regions in the UK reacted with dismay yesterday at the prospect of losing hundreds of millions of oounds in a shake up of the EU aid programme. Page 12

Jail beatings

REPORTS that immates at a jail have been systematically beaten by a group of about 20 prison officers are to be investigated in a major inquiry. Page 2

Cook's tour SHRUGGING off his apparent snub by Benjamin Netanvahu. Robin Cook has been

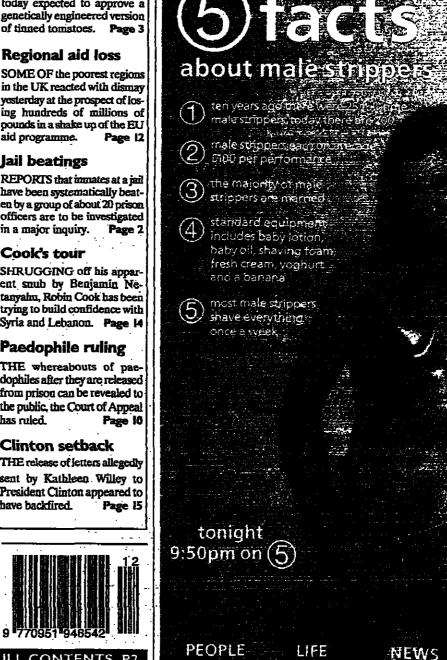
Syria and Lebanon. Page 14 Paedophile ruling

THE whereabouts of paedophiles after they are released from prison can be revealed to the public, the Court of Appeal has ruled. Page 10

Clinton setback

THE release of letters allegedly sent by Kathleen Willey to President Clinton appeared to have backfired.





Britain's radioactive lobsters upset Norway

By Fran Abrams

Political Correspondent

NUCLEAR waste from Sellafield is polluting Scandinavian lobsters, shrimps and mussels 500 miles away, Nordic ministers have old the British government.

In an official complaint to Michael Meacher, the environment minister, they say human alth and the environment buld be at risk from a 50-fold increase in some discharges over just four years.

Their joint demand for cuts in discharges, already rejected

complaints from the Irish government. It also follows a cull last month of seaguils and pigeons in the Sellafield area after their droppings were found to be radioactive.

Some of the heaviest concentrations found during investigations by the Norwegian Radiological Protection Board were in the claw and tail muscle of lobsters, parts which are usually eaten. However, much higher levels of radiation are allowed in British seafood. The details were revealed in

Blaenau Gwent, who has been campaigning on the issue. Anna Lindh, chair of the

Nordic Council of Environment Ministers and environment minister for Sweden, told Mr Meacher in a formal letter that the discharges were polluting some of the world's most valuable fishing grounds. Changes under consultation in Britain could result in even higher discharge levels from Sellafield, she said. According to the Norwe-

by Mr Meacher, follows similar – a written Parliamentary answer – gian report, liquid discharges of – changes would actually lead to a 99 have increased to 50 times their 1994 level, while remaining well inside British safety levels. In the early 1990s, the waste

was held back while a new processing plant was completed. Ms Lindh's letter called for the discharges to be stopped. "The Nordic countries will closely follow the development of this issue," it said. Mr Meacher replied that the

discharges were not radiologically

significant either to humans or

to Liew Smith, Labour MP for a substance called Technetium-cut in the levels rather than an increase, he said. "I share the concern of the Nordic countries for protection

> of the marine environment. While I appreciate that the detection of any levels of radioactivity can give rise to concern, and there is never room for complacency, it is important to consider the radiological impact. The UK is rigorous in adhering to all of the international commitments which it enters into in the field of environmental rato other species. The proposed dioactivity," he said.

INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 . CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P10 . TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 . FULL CONTENTS, P2

Carey's flight of fancy takes him closer to the heavens

Public rail firm mooted by MPs

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT should consider taking a stake in Railtrack if it fails to deliver a modern and efficient railway system, according to a report by a powerful all-party committee

The remarkable conclusion was pushed by the 11 Labour members of the committee and accepted reluctantly by the four Tory MPs on the transport sciect committee.

Nationalisation of Railtrack. the company that owns the nation's stations and tracks, remains an aim for many of the Labour faithful.

Taking stake in the company was also proposed when senior executives met ministers to discuss the privatisation of the Tube. The idea was in return for a shareholding. Railtrack would inject capital into the network - but the scheme was rejected.

The report also proposed a radical reform of the way the privatised railways are regulated to give passengers more power, better services and safer trains.

It concluded that the sell-off of the old nationalised system was a disappointment. "It is clear that the privatised passenger railway has not yet performed significantly better than British Rail," the committee

"We are disappointed that the train operators' performance has shown no general improvement over the last year, and on half of routes has actually declined.

A safety authority should be set up to oversee the scrapping of old, slam-door trains and the introduction of new train safety measures, said the committee. Passenger watchdog groups should be made much more powerful and have at least one representative on the Government's proposed Strategic Rail Authority.

But Eric Pickles, the Tory leader on the committee, preferred to concentrate on the "successes" of private operators adding: "This has seen a passenger numbers."

Prison officers accused of brutality and racial abuse By jason Bennetto Among the allegations con- until he urinated. A fourth in- back to October 1996 up until but we are left with the question Crime Correspondent tained in a dossier compiled by mate said he was handcuffed

brutally beaten by a group of about 20 prison officers are to be investigated in a major inquiry, it was announced yes-Officers at Wormwood Scrubs jail, west London, are

also accused of racially abusing

REPORTS that inmates at a jail

have been systematically and

levelled against prison staff for many years. The Prison Service yesterday

the "very serious" charges.

solicitors representing 11 prisoners is a statement by a man on remand awaiting trial, which reads: "One of the officers stamped on my head and I blacked out. When the officer who had taken me to the block officers have been accused of

of my right ear I was taken to

the hospital."

black inmates in one of the most ground and flung my head on said one prisoner claimed he serious set of allegations to be the wall. There was about 10 had been beaten up by staff alcase, officers are alleged to would say the allegations in that at the west London jail. He not- Prison Officers Association, announced a investigation into have grabbed an inmate by the case amount to forture." throat and kicked and beat him

and kicked.

A total of eight prisoners,

High-flyer: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, taking to the skies in a Harrier jump-jet during a visit to RAF Wittering in

Cambridgeshire, yesterday. Travelling at up to 500mph, the Archbishop, who is head of RAF chaptains, flew an hour's sortie across Britain

five of whom are black, have made allegations of assaults, and a further three have given witness statements. More than 20 saw that blood was coming out brutality. A spokesman for the solicitors, Hickman and Rose, said they expected more inmates Another convicted inmate to come forward. Daniel Maclaims: "They threw me on the chover, partner in the firm, minutes of beating." In a third most every day for a month. "I about the "illegal use of force"

Scrubs appeared in court with "serious injuries" apparently sustained in the prison at the weekend.

Monday. All those complaining

Mr Machover said one of his

are still in jail

The Prison Service set up the inquiry two days after the solicitors contacted Sir David

case amount to torture." ed. "We found nothing to sup-said his members would The alleged assaults date port this diverge the inspection erate with the inquiry.

why such a strong rumour should be passed around." He also said he was "surprised and clients held in Wormwood horrified" by conditions there, and he found "outdated staff attitudes to be prevailing everywhere, appearing to resist

change at every turn". Tony Pearson, Prison Service deputy director-general, said: "I have instructed a senior and experienced governor from outside of the region to findertake a full inquiry into whether the allemisoners : Mations can be substantiated?"

Mark Healy, chamman of the

32-pages of film alert for and music in THEEYE hospital

Blood

chiefs

By Jeremy Laurance

ALL HOSPITALS are being

asked to review their procedures

for handling blood after a study

revealed 169 cases in which er-

rors had been made, putting pa-

In 12 cases, patients died and

in a further 39 suffered serious

injury requiring treatment in in-

tensive care or dialysis for kid-

The findings are contained

sion group (Shot) set up by pro-

of the National Blood Service

to monitor the safety of blood

About 3 million blood trans-

vear, the vast majority without

do occur they tend to follow a

said. The commonest error, ac-

intended for one patient was

transfusions has to be careful-

ly matched to avoid triggering

There have been a series of

scares about the safety of blood

for transfusion in the UK in-

volving fears about possible

contamination and transmis-

sion of viruses including HIV

and hepatitis. The results of the

Shot study revealed three cas-

es of bacterial contamination -

one because the donor's arm

had not been properly cleaned

- and five in which an infection

was transmitted; hepatitis A, B

Three of the infections, in-

cluding that with HIV, occurred

as a result of donations during

the "window" period - after the

donor had been infected but be-

fore it showed up in routine tests.

of the Shot working group, said

new tests were being devel-

oped to reduce the window pe-

riod during which infections

were undetectable. "We are

dealing with very rare events but

still vigilant," she said.

Dr Lorna Williamson, chair

and C, HIV and malaria.

a serious reaction.

Health Editor

tients at risk.

ney failure.

transfusion.

Quentin Tarantino and The Man From UNCLE

Bob Hoskins, down and out in Twentyfourseven

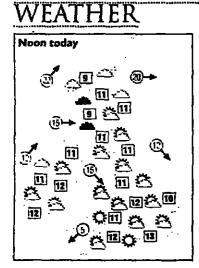
PPArnold: from lkette to soul survivor

Single mothers: Hollywood's latest superstars

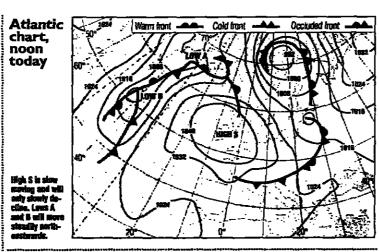


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Northern Scotland will be mostly cloudy and grey with some occasional rain and drizzle. Southern Scotland and Northern Ireland should stay dry and mild with a little sunshine should stay by and much much a much successions to the east of triph ground. Meanwhile, England and Wales will be fine and settled again with any early fog soon lifting to leave banks of cloud and some good suriny spells, especially away from North Sea coasts where the sunchine will be rather hazy, it will be mild everywhere for March with the highest temperatures in southern England.



British Isles weather onosi recent accelebre forme al neon tecal Line C. Clemby: Cl. clear: F. Lair, F.g. fog. H.; haze, M. cost; R. rant; S. sustoy: Sl. sibect; Sh.; showers; Sh.; shower C 948 Bristel F 1355 Everasey C 1152 Cardiff F:254 Inverness F 846 Oxterd C 9 48 Carlisie C 348 Ipswich C 1152 Plymouth F 1254 Belfast F 1254 Islas of Sellty C 1152 Scarbarangh C 1254 Sh 1050 Bever G 1152 Southamptos F 1457 Birmingham F 1254 Buhlin F 1254 Jersey Edjahargh Blackpool F 1050 St 9 48 Literpeel C 948 Southerd C 1355 f 1355 Leaden Bournemouth F 1355 Exeter C 1254 Slasgew

Out and about with AA Roadwatch Call 9336 401777 for ten batest local and authors spalin news Source. Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per role at all times (see VA

World weather and managed by a second different collections and the second different collections are a second different collections. **HARTSTON** WEATHER WISE

> OUR weather in the second half of this week is being dominat- the compression energy is coned by an anti-cyclone (high pressure area) that yesterday settled directly above Britain. In the summer, we often think of fine weather, but at other times fine, sunny summer days of year, the situation is far less though the chilling effect of the

High pressure means heavier air, and there are two main istic.

things that can bring that about. First, cold air is denser than specific gravity of water vapour is only about two-thirds that of dry air, or both. This doesn't sound like a

weather, but there is another important process involved with anticyclones that does have a warming effect. In a summer anti-cyclone, air is piled up in the troposphere by high altitude winds. As the air descends, it is compressed by the pressure of the air above it, and it warms as verted to heat. (This is the process known as adiabatic warming.) Under such conditions, clouds tend to disappear upper, cold air makes occasional thunderstorms also character-

In summer, high pressure ateas are usually formed of marwarm air, and second, dry air is itime tropical or continental heavier than damp air (since the tropical air. The winter anticyclone is a different beast, more likely resulting from continenair). So an area of high pressure tal polar wind. Its cooling effect. may correspond to cold air, or can easily lead to cloud and fog.

Yesterday, in the South-eastwe saw a beautifully clear and recipe for guaranteed fine bright morning, but by lunchtime the sky had completely clouded over. This is again quite typical of some sorts of anticyclonic weather. What happens is that turbulence near ground level, caused by the land being warmed by the sun, and the air at ground level bemg warmed by the land and rising, lifts moist air high enough ·! to condense and form cloud. . u

The main characteristic of high pressure, however, at what an ever time of year, is its tenden- # high pressure as a portent of as the air warms, resulting in cy to lead to stable weather d. conditions. High pressure areas, # consisting of heavy air, are more difficult to budge than their flimsy low pressure colleagues.

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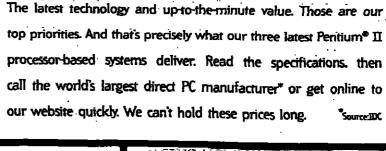
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حكنا من الاعل

Experts approve genetically altered tomatoes

By Nicholas Schoon Environment Correspondent

GENETICALLY engineered tomatoes are today expected to be approved by government experts for

Tinned tomatoes are Britain's leading UK drugs and seeds group Zeneca is seeking Europe-wide approval for marketing a range of tinned tomato products using GMO its "own label" groceries. genetically modified organism -

expert committee is the first step. Canned tomatoes, are an essen-

tial ingredient in millions of British other. They are found in more and kitchens. We eat 230,000 tons of them, worth some £160m, a year.

Novel Foods and Processes will contop-selling canned food and the sider Zeneca's bid the day after the frozen food chain Iceland announced that from 1 May it would use no GMO-derived ingredients in

tomatoes. Its application to a British ing DNA, the hereditary chemical, way and Sainsbury, where it has tak-blocks the production of an enzyme tomatoes will be just as safe and nuganism and transferring it into anmore of the food on supermarket The Advisory Committee on as the only big food retailer offering consumers a choice.

The advisory committee has already considered Zeneca's application in detail, and will have a final report today. The GMO tomato, so far grown only in California, is al-GMO products are made by tak- ready on sale as purée, sold by Safe- seeds. The gene that confers it Zeneca's argument that its canned To market a GMO food in tory affairs manager.

from one plant, animal or micro-or- en half the market. The purée, labelied as coming from GMO fruit. is cheaper than ordinary kinds.

> The long-life Zeneca tomato, known as TGT7-F, stays firm for longer after ripening, both on the stalk and after being picked. That makes it more resistant to moulds and better suited for highly mechanised farming and food processing.

The new property is passed from generation to generation through the

that plays a key role in making ripe tritious as the ordinary kind. It has tomatoes go mushy.

normal tomato gene, was attached GMO tomatoes kills any seeds and to some bacterial DNA including a effectively destroys the antibiotic regene conferring resistance to an an-sistance. tibiotic, kanamycin. Then the collection of genes was permanently canned tomatoes in the European stitched into the tomato's own DNA. Union only if it was allowed to grow

mittee of 16 experts, mostly university professors, has accepted plied for the necessary EU approval.

heard evidence that the intense heat The gene, a synthetic copy of a used in peeling and then sterilising

Zeneca said it would sell GMO The Government's advisory com- them on the continent too, in southern nations such as Spain. It has ap-

Britain. That approval then applies across the EU, provided no other nations raise safety doubts which can be made to stick.

Zeneca says it will insist that the labels on the cans of tomato declare to be very open about this, to ensure we bring people along with us," said Nigel Poole, the company's regula-



Political streetfighter who gets his retaliation in first

IN THE NEWS

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

NOBODY IS quicker at spotting a tactical advantage. "Get your retaliation in first", runs the old Ulster political adage of which Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, would approve, writes Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem.

This explains the Israeli leader's explosive response when Robin Cook shook the hand of a well-known Palestinian during a visit to the Israeli settlement at Har Homa, called by Palestinians Jebel Abu Ghneim, in south-east Jerusalem. He said Britain had broken its promise that "there would be no contact with Palestinians in relation to that place".

The incident was typical. First of all, his claim was fairly demonstrably untrue. David Manning, the British ambassador, patiently explained that he had reached no prior agreement with Israel on who Mr Cook should shake hands with.

But the Israeli leader's purpose in manufacturing a confrontation with Mr Cook was clear. The US is on the verge of launching an initiative to revive the peace process. By opening fire on Mr Cook, who spoke warmly of the coming US proposals, Mr Netanyahu was sending a message that he will resist American pressure for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

It is by such manoeuvres that Mr Netanyahu made himself first leader of the tactician. He has a relentless will to win. "That is what counts," said Nahum

Barnea, an Israeli columnist, "the hunger. The willingness to wage war, get dirty, to stick to the goals wholeheartedly".

Born in Israel in 1949, Mr Netanyahu comes from a family on the far right. His father Bentzion Netanyahu, a historian of the Spanish Inquisition, went into self-imposed exile in the US because he believed

Sara, Mr Netanyahu's third wife (below), has had a lot to put up with, in 1993, during his election campaign for the leadership of the Likud Party.

her husband appeared on TV to confess to political opponents were threatening to blackmail him by re-

for burning the scup...

Instead, he waited. Palestinian bombs exploded on buses. Mr Netanvahu united the disparate forces of the Right, from newly-arrived Russian immigrants to the blackcoated ultra-Orthodox. He was also favoured by his opponent's visible con-tempt for his abilities. On election right he won by a few thousand votes.

US CONNECTION

At one time, President Clinton was said to be refusing to take calls from the Israeli Prime Minister. Mr Netanyaho said the dam Husseins in the Middle East one in frag and the other, himself, in Israel. But he has strong support in the US media and in the US Jewish community. He has suc-The assessination of Yitzak Rabin in cessfully cultivated leaders of the Repub-Netanyahu and modern Israel, If Mr. probably rightly, that he can thwart any US Rabin's successor had called an elec-effort aimed at forcing him to implement tion immediately, he would have won. the Oslo accords with the Palestinians.

his views prevented him getting an appropriate academic job. From school in Philadelphia, and later Harvard University, Benjamin returned to Israel for his military service, during which he became a commando. The impetus for his political career came when his brother Jonathan was killed in the Entebbe raid in 1976, rescuing bostages from a hijacked plane.

After a brief stint marketing furniture, Mr Netanyahu was sent to the Israeli embassy in Washington. During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 he began to show Israeli right and then Prime Minister of his expertise as a propagandist. Promoted Israel in 1996. But he is more than an able to be Israeli ambassador to the UN, he appeared on American television so often that a poll showed many Americans thought he largely refused to implement them. He is was their own UN representative.

After returning to Israel he fought a fierce campaign to become leader of the right-wing Likud Party in 1993. Three years whipped up opposition to the 1993 Oslo handshake at Har Homa. Accords with the Palestinians by attacks

on Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister. When Mr Rabin was assassinated in 1995 his widow Leah refused to shake hands with Mr Netanyahu.

A quick election after the assassination might have finished him. Instead, his opponents waited. In 1996 he became Prime Minister by a few thousand votes. His election provoked a debate in Israel and across the world about his political character. Was he an ideologue or a pragmatist? The answer, which should have been evident from his writings, is that he is an ideological man of great practical intelligence and flexibility.

Ostensibly, he supports the Israeli-Palestinian Oslo accords. In practice he has always prepared to talk while Israeli settlements continue to be established in the West Bank. He believes, perhaps rightly. that if he shows himself combative enough later he survived what might have been the he can strangle any peace initiative in its death blow to any other politician. He had cradle. Hence his reaction to Mr Cook's

Football chiefs who behaved badly grovel to the people of Newcastle

By Steve Boggan

TWO Newcastle Football Club directors who called women of the North-east "dogs", boasted of whoring their way around the world, and mocked their fans for buying replica kits at inflated prices, made a grovelling apology yesterday.

Club chairman Freddy Shepherd and vice-chairman Douglas Hall, said their comments, published in the News of the World, were "totally out of character". the better part of valour, they stayed away from last night's Come match against Crystal Palace, arguing that their presence would be a "distraction".

The men said they were taking legal advice over suing the newspaper, which recorded their comments at a brothel in Marbella, but its editor. Phil Hall. said any attempt to sue would result in the most spectacular High Court case in years".



had expected the statement to apology. The fact that it was not

men's comments on Sunday.



But, deciding that discretion was Brought into disrepute: Freddy Shepherd and Douglas Hall

In the North-east, many fans money they made from merchandising and of how they be more of a denial than an found their star striker Alan Shearer so boring that they was expected to lead to nicknamed him "Mary Popdemonstrations at at last night's pins". Anger among fans mani-

fested itself in the form of sar-The club has been in turmoil since the publication of the casm last night as 40,000 Geordies used humour to get They boasted of hiring prosti- their message across. During the cerning the way in which the abroad for £5 and sold on at £50. tutes, of the vast sums of match, thousands of supporters

planned to throw their replica jerseys on to the pitch, women were preparing to bark instead of cheer, and the fans planning to keep their shirts on had renlaced the name-tag "Shearer" with "Poppins". The directors' statement

claimed the newspaper had 'sensationalised" their comments during a meeting which it had set up, something the editor denied. It went on: "Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd sincerely apologise for any offence that has been caused to members of their families, the fans of Newcastle United, the people of the North-east and their fellow directors. They particularly apologise to the women of the North-east.

"Whilst their behaviour has been called into question by the News of the World, they in turn are entitled to a full explanation from the News of the World con-

by that newspaper and the way in which it was then reported."

Phil Hall said no "set-up" was involved. He said the newspaper simply received a tip-off about the men's behaviour and the likely location. A reporter was dispatched and secret video and audio tapes were made.

"This isn't a proper apology," he said. "It sounds more as if they feel sorry for themselves instead of the fans who they've been ripping off." He said the newspaper was planning to follow up the story with revelations that would "blow the lid off Newcastle" on Sunday.

More than 90 per cent of callers to a Newcastle radio phone-in said the men should resign. But Newcastle United plc said it would be inappropriate to take action until the legal position was clarified. Adidas, which makes Newcastle's replica jerseys, denied that they are made meeting was dishonestly set up They were made in the UK for

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Exquisite books and manuscripts should stay put, say peers

ing arts figures is fighting to prepooks and manuscripts bemeathed to the British Library to be one of the finest library rooms in the world. ije new St Pancras building,

Crites Clare Garner. Since 1829, the collection has fren housed in the King's Li-

vent a collection of early printed flooring inlaid with mahogany, the 300ft gallery is considered

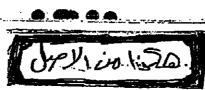
The King's Library comprises 65,250 books and 20,000 accordance with the terms of the pamphlets, as well as more than 400 manuscripts and one of the ry, a magnificent room world's earliest collections of icifically designed for that maps, globes and fossils. The best possible conditions pose by Sir Robert Smirke. British Library is intent on represervation and use."

A GROUP of peers and lead- Resplendent with brass rail- moving the collection from its ings, glazed bookcases and oak original home. It has already shifted one tenth of the collection to St Pancras and plans to complete the transfer by 3 April.

A statement from the British Library insists the transfer is "in gift". The statement continues: "In the new building, the King's Library will be housed in the best possible conditions for its

However, campaigners feel that the glass tower in which the books are soon to be housed will not do the collection justice and are pressing for a debate in parliament. Lord Norwich, a broadcaster and author, said cause a new building comes yesterday: "The King's Library along, Furthermore, we now live is an extraordinary building and an extraordinary institution. Two things which were made for each other will be separated. That is always very sad."

es exhibitions on architecture and urban planning and is coordinating the campaign, said: history every 200 years just bein the age of computers. People can easily find out if a book's in the British Museum [where the King's Library is situated] and go there."



Students staying at home to save money

By Judith Judd Education Editor

ONE IN six students would have been unlikely to go to university if they had been required to pay tuition fees, says a survey published today.

Among students from poorer families, the proportion rose to more than a quarter.

Students will have to pay £1,000 a year tuition fees towards the cost of their courses

While applications overall are down by 2.9 per cent, new figures in The Independent's "Education+" show there have been clear winners and losers in the applications race. Some universities have seen them increase by nearly 40 per cent while others are facing a fall of

Those with the biggest in-

creases are Thames Valley University, Bath, Huddersfield, Staffordshire, Lancaster, University of the West of England and Bristol.

The biggest losers are East Anglia, Dundee, Abertay, Nottingham Trent, Plymouth and the private university of Buck-

While there is little pattern in the application trends, universities in more isolated spots such as Exeter and East Anglia, tend to have fared badly. That suggests that more students may be deciding to live at home to save money.

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service is investigating the findings.

Applications to London colleges and its new universities are holding up well despite the high cost of living in the cap-

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dents asked if they would have taken up their courses if they had been liable for fees. Among students from lower-income families receiving means-tested maintenance grants 26 per cent said they would either "definitely not" or would have

been unlikely to do so. Students were also asked if they would have gone to university if they had thought that they would leave college with debts of £10,000 or more. Because grants are being phased out alongside the introduction of fees, that is the size of the debt to be expected by students from poorer families. Around 40 per cent said that they would

Researchers also questioned students about their lifestyle. The survey of 6,349 final-year

Clanna Cinni

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take up their courses.

have been at least "unlikely" to

The survey of final-year stu- students at 19 top universities by High Fliers Research, a student and graduate market research company, shows that students have an impressive array of technological equipment.

More than half has a television, one in four has a video and one in three a personal computer. One in six has a mobile phone and one in six a games machine. Two-thirds thought that cannabis was an acceptable drug for personal

However, the students who are all at universities demanding high entry qualifications including Oxford and Cambridge - have lowbrow tastes in television programmes. Their favourite television shows are EastEnders, Friends, Men Behaving Badly,



The Simpsons and Shooting Purse strings: Mary Shittu, left, and Jumoke Oyadare decided to study in London to save money Photograph: Rui Xavier

When the price of a degree is cheapest option

By Ben Russell Education Correspondent

LIVING at home is the norm for undergraduates at the University of North London, where the high cost of living tests stu-

dent finances to the limit. Student leaders estimate it costs at least £6,000 to live within reach of the university's Islington campus, even before the introduction of £1,000 a year tuition fees.

Aidan McDonald, the student union president, moved to the university from Birmingham, but said many others simply could not afford to study without help at home from their families. He estimates that up to 70 per cent of students at the university live at home. "Living at home will save students thousands of counds because it costs £2,000 a year to live in a hall of residence, but there are many more savings," he said.

decision to come to college the cost of living is one of the key factors. When I came I had to ed a change," she said. be sure that I had a job and was

"When people make the

was more concern over the. loss of maintenance grants, which would hit the large mature student population.

In the library, students working for their summer exams acknowledged that the cost of living in London was a big. problem. Many said the financial burden of living in the capital might have put them off university education. But they insisted that living at home did

have its compensations. Jumoke Oyadare, a secondyear marketing and business student, said: "I live at home... because it's cheap. And it's a lot easier to be at home. I concentrate better and I study better."

Dwarfing the "Fa"

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Helpful Harmer

Andrew Prophet, also study ing marketing and business. lives with his family in Morden, south-west London. "I would have moved away if I could, but it's not worth it," he said. "All you have to pay for if you live at home is your transport."

Deema Bharkhda, a thirdyear law student, moved away from Leicester to study in London, despite the cost. "I want-"London was one of the places which excited me. It is very

insurance in

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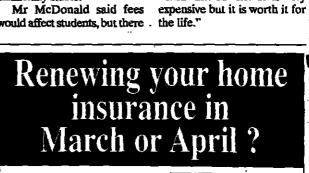
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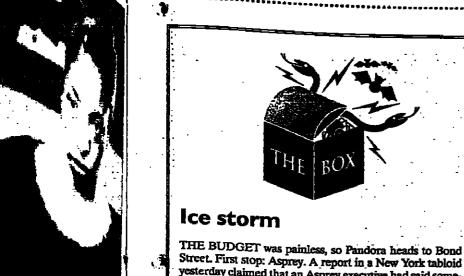
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Street. First stop: Asprey. A report in a New York tabloid yesterday claimed that an Asprey executive had said something rude ("she's rather fat and dishevelled") about Kate Winslet and the \$3.5m Couer de la Mer necklace which the jeweller designed for the film *Titanic*. The notion that Asprey wasn't keen to have our Kate wear the sapphire and diamond trinket to the Academy Awards on Monday was "absolutely completely unfounded ... utter rubbish" according to the store. "We first offered it to Kate Winslet to wear to the Oscars, but she declined." So the necklace will be worn by Celine Dion when she sings at the awards. Unless it is sold at the "Princess Ball" charity auction this Saturday in Beverly Hills and the new owner opts to wear it.

Going for a Ong

THE Queen of Bond Street, Christina Ong, is a shy Singaporean lady with impeccable taste in brand names. She is the wife of a secretive Singaporean billionaire named Ong Beng Seng, Whereas most wealthy ladies go



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shopping for glamorous fashions. Christina has been able to buy up the entire UK franchises of top designers such as Giorgio Armani, Donna Karan, Prada and Guess, as well as Bulgari, the jewellers. Thanks to their successes,

Christina and BS bave gone on to build the trendiest new hotel in London, the Metropolitan on Park Lane, as well as the Halkin in 🕟 Mayfair. "BS Ong" is also the largest Hard Rock franchisee. But times change

and economic woes in the Far Kast have led to the Ongs divesting. In January, the Telegraph reported that Ong had sold an Austrian hotel, a Gulfstream jet and a Bulgari jewellery shop and was looking to sell his stake in Branson's Virgin Entertainment Group. Now Pandora has learnt that he has sold his 50 per cent of the Four Seasons Hotel on Park Lane to Sandi Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal.

Dwarfing the news



LEAVING the fairy lights of Bond Street for the fairy tales of Wapping, what is the difference between "up market" and "down market" at Rupert Murdoch's newspapers? Both The Times and The Sun had cartoon illustrations of dwarves on their Budget front pages. The "up market" Times portrayed Gordon Brown as one of Snow White's dwarves while the "down market" Sun drew him as Snow White leading her dwarves. Literally speaking, not much difference at all.

Helpful Harriet

THAT didn't protect the news desk at The Times on Tuesday evening from irate, pleading telephone calls from Martin Sixsmith, Harriet Harman's spin-doctor, and then the Social Security Secretary herself. At issue was a diary piece about Harman's daughter, who has been informed that her Dulwich home is beyond the catchment area of the highly desirable(particularly if you're a Labour minister) Church of England comprehensive Lady Margaret School. After Sixsmith failed to convince that this was an infringement of the Privacy Code, Harriet rang to say that surely The Times had better things to publish. "Why don't you print a picture of [assistant editor | Mary Ann Sieghart?" she asked, leading some of the hacks to wonder if they should ring the Dulwich office of Care in the Community.

Pandora

DAILY POEM

Burden

By D J Enright

The grasshopper was a burden to me. It knew of something hurtful to me. In a dream I squashed the grasshopper.

Why was the grasshopper such a burden? Its singing hindered me from sleeping. All flesh is grass was still its burden.

Unlike the owl, the bat, the loris. The grasshopper is no power of darkness. It sings at ease in the light of the sun.

Did I lie at ease in the light of the sun? The grasshopper hindered me from sleeping. (f so, then how could I be dreaming? The grasshopper is no more a burden.

This week's poems celebrate D J Enright's half-century as a published poet and come from his new Collected Poems 1948-1998 Oxford University Press, £15). Enright taught English for many years in the Far East and Egypt, and has also worked as a pulisher, critic and editor. This poem first appeared in Poems 1981.

Cleese and Elton back on BBC

ELTON, Caroline Quentin, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, and David Ginola are among the famous faces unveiled in the BBC's £278m spring and summer schedule

In BBC1 drama, the former Brookside star John McArdle. EastEnder Lindsey Coulson and Dominic West play caring doctors in the medical series Out Of

An action-packed science fiction thriller Invasion: Earth is set in the present day and stars Vincent Regan, Maggie O'Neill, Fred Ward and Phyllis Logan.

City Central, a new police drama, will make its debut and another new BBC1 drama offering is Close Relations, a story of love and revenge featuring Amanda Redman, Sheila Hancock and Kate Buffrey.

Kevin Whately is back in a second series of The Brokers' Man and Letitia Dean gets a second series of The Hello Girls about a 1950s telephone exchange.

In The Red on BBC2 is a with a strong cast including evening on BBC2.

Warren Clarke, Stephen Pry and Richard Wilson. The radio hit Spoonface Steinberg has been made for television on BBC2.

Kiss Me Kate is Caroline Quentin's new comedy about a happily single career woman, while Ben Elton has an eightpart comedy series and Blankety Blank returns to BBC1 with Lilv Savage at the helm.

The Human Body, a science show presented by the fertility expert Professor Robert Winston, claims to be the most comprehensive biology series ever

Rolf's Amazing World Of Animals is a new factual vehicle for Rolf Harris and BBC2 presents The Windrush Season. marking the 50th anniversary of Caribbean immigration to

Sport will include the World Cup football finals - with David Ginola in the commentary team the Grand National, Test Match Cricket, Wimbledon and the Open Golf, while the former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali will wicked satire on the BBC itself be celebrated with a theme





Ben Elton (above) at the launch yesterday of the BBC's spring and summer schedules in which he has an eight-part comedy series Also in the line-up are Caroline Quentin (left), who stars in the new comedy show, Kiss Me Kate, and Professor Robert Winston. the fertility expert (right), who will present a science show on The Human Body Main photograph:

Kalpesh Lathigra



'Female' abuse syndrome crosses sex divide

By Jeremy Laurance

A BIZARRE form of child abuse thought to be carried out only by women can be perpetrated by men, too, according to A series of cases in which fa-

thers smothered or poisoned their children in order to get medical attention is described in the medical journal Archives of Disease in Childhood. The fathers, dosed their children with salt, caffeine or rat poison or smothered them until they passed out to make them appear ill and obtain medical attention.

The fathers were diagnosed as suffering from Munchausen syndrome by proxy by Professor Sir Roy Meadow, the consultant paediatrician who first described the syndrome in the late 1960s. Professor Meadow said that for 10 years after identifying the condition he believed it only affected women but he had since come across 15 families where the father was involved.

Munchausen syndrome, from which many of the men were also suffering, involves patients inventing ailments which trigger medical investigations as a way of gaining attention. In the proxy version, the child is made the object of the investigations.

In most cases the fathers had taken their children to accident and emergency departments with the story that they had stopped breathing or been found shaking, having a fit or unconscious. Usually they had been smothered and in several cases the fathers had attempted resuscitation.

Often the fathers were difficult and demanding in hospital. One conducted a crusade on behalf of his daughter, seeking expert opinions from round the country. In another, the father bought medical books and equipment and took blood, administered enemas and performed other tests on his four-year-old son.

Many of the men were pathological liars inventing stories about fighting alongside the Duke of York in the Falklands War, writing a screenplay for Steven Spielberg, being the victim of burglaries or of strangers abducting their children. Professor Meadow writes: "From the descriptions of some of their lives, at least six of them would have vied with Baron Munchausen [the war-time air ace] himself in terms of dramatic and untruthful stories."







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British motorists face an expensive future

By Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

DRIVERS will face bigger bills

in the coming years as the Govannextra £60 a year on average, ernment attempts to unclog city and the Chancellor criticised the streets and curb growing pollution. oil companies for not passing on Tuesday's Budget - which mixed petrol price hikes with a cash boost for public transport

- demonstrated the benefits for ministers of pursuing such a strategy: bringing in more than £1bn in extra taxes and delivering environmental benefits.

Gavin Strang, the transport minister, described it as the "most far-reaching package of quick to point out that drivers use huge-engined cars. had ensured the Budget was fiscally neutral. "Along with cutting relief for the married couple's allowance and smokers, motorists paid for it," said Paul

Institute of Fiscal Studies. Petrol went up by more than

5p a litre - costing the motorist 10.6 mpg - pays £1080. the drop in world-wide fuel prices. This has bought an immediate response. BP, the oil giant, cut the cost of petrol by 2p a litre in rural areas.

But for Britain's drivers, the devil is in the detail. Although from next year will see a new £100 tax disc for the "smallest and cleanest cars", no upper limit has been set a possible exmeasures to promote cleaner ve- cise duty for gas guzzlers. This hicles and fuels the country could see huge increases for had seen". Economists were those motorists who choose to

This "graduated" duty is the norm on the Continent. Drivers of the Suzuki Swift - the most fuel efficient car on the road would only pay £66 in road tax follow in this May's transport they pay for," reads the ad.

Johnson, deputy director of the in Belgium. However, a motorist White Paper. This will include in Brussels who drives a Ferrari F50 - which manages a mere

> Company car owners also thought they had escaped with just a phasing out of their free fuel subsidy. This will cost the executive with a two-litre Mercedes £150 extra a year and will raise more than £500m by 2001 for the public purse.

"We are looking to encourage the production of fuel-efficient vehicles. Fuel duty increases and changing excise duty schemes will encourage that," said a civil servant.

But in the small print lurks another change for company car users. The Government quietly announced a review of the tax breaks which provide "a perverse incentive to drive extra

proposals which could see councils fining motorists who spew fumes into the atmosphere as well as charging drivers for entering congested town centres.

A leaked draft of the paper showed ministers will introduce a tax, to be collected by local authorities, on "private non-residential parking", mainly staff car parks provided free by employers or customer spaces offered by shops. A ministerial aide said that unless current policies were changed "it would be difficult" to meet the air quality standards for 2005 set by the previous administration.

This has not impressed the motoring lobby. The AA took out full page newspaper adverts today to question the Government's agenda. "The Chancellor talks of fairness and that More measures are sure to must mean motorists get what



Single parents will have to wait until April next year to receive their second extra premium

Year of struggle before lone parents receive benefit bonus

By Glenda Cooper

Social Affairs Correspondent LONE PARENTS claiming for ent Families said: "It may sound

the first time will have to wait a year before the value of last year's benefits cuts is replaced, ship, campaigners warned last

Benefit for new claimants year. was cut in December but the Government said that moves in the Budget to increase other benefits would replace the money lost by lone parents.

ers will have to wait until April 1999 before they are on a par with other parents - a year in which both they and their children will face hardship.

Last December the Government pushed through the controversial benefit cuts for lone parents, sparking rebellion and a ministerial resignation. The cuts, proposed by the previous Conservative government, left lone parents on income support £4.65 a week

"This is quite serious if you are a lone parent on income support," said Margaret Creear, policy officer for Gingerbread who is urging the Government to halt the benefit cuts. "We are

and it is pretty expensive." 🎏 Maeve Sherlock of the National Council of One Par-

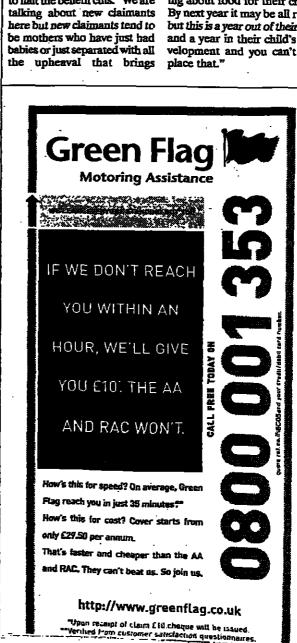
like small sums but if you are on less than £100 a week it is huge. If the Government had putting many in financial hard- the courage of its convictions it would do something about this and defer the cuts until next 'd If a lone parent has a child ::

under 11, he or she will receive an extra £2.50 per week in November with the new under-11 child rate. But they But campaigners said last will have to wait until the folnight that delays in introducing lowing April to receive anoththose rises mean that the moth- er £2.50 per week in family premiums.

"Basically they won't get the reinstatement for a year," Ms Creear said. "It doesn't add up. The Government promised that no low income families would be worse off because of the Budget, but lone parents on income support are

going to be worse off for a year. "This is a big amount for lone parents. Those on income support are amongst the poorest people in the population. More than 30 per cent of them live in severe hardship - that means they don't have enough

food for clothing and food. "So when you are talking about £2.50 - £5 you are talking about food for their child. By next year it may be all right but this is a year out of their life and a year in their child's development and you can't re-





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Tobacco tax delay angers health lobby

By Anthony Bevins

Political Editor

A SURPRISE delay in slapping extra tax on cigarettes could cost the Exchequer a packet - of more than £600m in lost revenues.

But Customs and Excise said yesterday that the decision to stall for more than seven months the extra 21p duty and tax on 20 cigarettes was a "hangover" from the old November Budgets, when Kenneth Clarke had increased tobacco duty from 1 December.

Similarly, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has held back the increase in drink - a penny on a pint of beer and 4p on a bottle of wine - until New Year's Day, 1999.

Clarke in his November Budget because he and not wished to be dubbed a "Scrooge" for putting extra duties on drink in time for

But the distinction between the immediate, overnight increase in petrol duty, and the extra tax "holiday" for tobacco, will disturb the health lobby.

December's increase in duty amounts to 5 per cent in real terms - over and above inflation - because "the Government maintains its commitment to protecting health". stockpile.

Last year's July Budget increase was also stalled until December, and it was estimated that in addition to "lost" revenue of £300m, the Chancellor had handed the manufacturers ample time to maximise production and profits in advance of the tax hike.

A spokesman for Customs and Excise lost revenue. Treasury calculations show a ed to smoke it."

remorselessly steady increase in the tax "take" from tobacco; up from £8bn in 1996-97 to £8.9bn in the coming year.

But the yield from next December's increase in duty will be £25m for the rest of the new financial year - compared with a full year yield of £710m in 1999-2000.

As for any suggestion of profiteering on the back of the delayed increase, Customs and Excise said that there was always stockpiling of cigarettes and tobacco in advance of a tax increase. "That is what happens every year, anyway," the spokesman said.
"That is a fact of life."

But John Carlisle, the former Conservative MP who now works for the Tobacco Manufacturers' association, told The Inde-That timing had been settled by Mr pendent that the delayed increase in duty was "a sort of crumb of comfort for me and my industry, and the poor smoker.

Like last year, it seems to be creating a precedent as to the time the duty goes up, but from our point of view it won't make any difference to the basic problem; that the smuggler will be delighted by the news that the price is going up by that amount in the future."

He said there were limits on how much the manufacturers could produce and

"Yes, there is always stockpiling by retailers, but they have to pay the full price, and therefore cannot do all that much." There was also a certain amount of stockpiling by smokers, too.

But he added: "Probably, iit pushes consumption up a bit because people tend to yesterday played down any suggestion of store stuff and if it's there, they are tempt-



Housing comes before job guidance for young homeless

By Barrie Clement Labour Editor

THE first signs of dissension from voluntary agencies delivering the Government's New Deal programme emerged yesterday over a plan to provide "mentors" and other extra help to the most disadvantaged young people.

The Centrepoint charity, which provides housing for people at risk, commended the mentoring system, but said the most urgent need was for reform of the benefits system to help provide housing.

The "foyer" movement which provides accommodation and help for the homeless. yesterday said that while the £50m in additional funds was welcome, an insufficient percentage was coming its way.

Carolyn Hayman, chief executive of the Foyers' Federation, said that it should be given full responsibility for helping its own residents to take advantage of New Deal.

Ms Hayman said members of her organisation were best placed to help the people they knew. In some areas, however, foyers were only given about £180 for each individual on New Deal out of an average £400 or more spent on preparing young people for the scheme through the so-called Gateway process.

"For heaven's sake we invented the Gateway. We have been helping to get homeless people into work for years," said Ms Hayman, who added that too much money was channelled by local partnerships through Training and Enterprise Councils.

Part of the extra £50m, announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in Tuesday's Budget, will be spent on a "mentoring" service for the 18- to 24 year-olds on New Deal. Under the system volunteers from busi- have built up.



Gordon Brown: Announced 'New Deal' mentoring funds

nesses, charities, churches and ethnic minority organisations will act as personal advisers or "buddies" to the most needy participants on the programme.

Under the plan up to 100,000 young people will be offered the support of trained mentors over the life of this Parliament, according to David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Victor Adebowale, chief executive of Centrepoint, said his organisation already provided residents with mentors where they were needed.

"Homeless young people tell us that it's very difficult to get and maintain full-time work without a place to iron clothes or get a good night's sleep. For many homeless young people a mentoring scheme is not a priority. A safe place to live and help to maintain accommodation is the first step," he said.

Other elements of the extra £50m will help to provide basic skills courses and there will be increased access to specialist help to tackle such problems as alcohol and drug dependency. homelessness and debt.

Employment Service managers report that one of the biggest problems encountered by young people hoping to take jobs is the mountain of debt they

Blunkett pledges £100m to cut class sizes

. . 5

1.19 of State for Education, will today announce a £100m alloca- £250m windfall for education school buildings to meet to replace temporary classtrayed by the Government as areas. Around £100m of the

spending shift towards educa- was allocated for training and review across all Whitehall from cancelled or delayed to promise an extra £2bn year tion and health from defence DAVID Blunkett, the Secretary and other Whitehall budgets.

The money, part of the tion to improve and extend from the Budget, will be used ace class sizes. It is being por- some will be targeted at rural the downpayment in a massive Budget increase for education comprehensive

computer projects, with around £40m for education in Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Blunkett has been arguing for more money from the Agbour's election pledge to re- rooms and it is expected that tion pledges on education. He more of Britain's wealth on edis looking for a much bigger ucation than the Tories. increase in his budget from the

departments. A ministerial source said

education needed billions of pounds more to enable the Government to meet its gener-Treasury to meet Labour's elec- al election promise to spend

- Ministers are expecting spending much of the money to come vestment could enable ministers spending followed by cuts."

defence contracts.

Tony Blair gave a clear hint for health, and a similar big yesterday that he is planning to boost for education. meet Labour's pledges to the voters on education and health MPs that he wanted to get into by promising year-on-year a cycle "where investment carries on year on year so we can increases for the remainder of the Parliament. get away from the situation

A rolling programme of in-

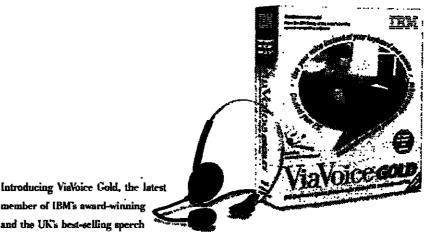
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has clue to
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identity

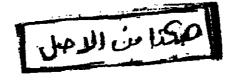
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Counterfeit gang (1.4)

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FBI expert has clue to Mardi Gra

By Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

THE CRIMINOLOGIST who successfully compiled an offender profile of the American "Unabomber" believes the Mardi Gra terrorist, who has been responsible for a series of explosions in London, is likely to switch targets soon and will not stop even if he is paid extortion money.

, identity

Dr Bill Tafoya, a former FBI officer, also provided vesterday a description of the man he believes is behind the British bombings. He thinks he is probably in his mid 30s, feels undervalued, lives in London, has a boring job, and is motivated by attention. He believes Sainsbury's and Barclays Bank are being targeted, not for money, but because Mardi Gra thinks he was badly treated as a customer and bears a grudge.

It took the FBI nearly 20 abomber, Ted Kaczynski, who sent or delivered bombs that killed three people and injured two others. Kaczynski, 54, was jailed for life this year after the former mathematician and Harvard graduate was from life", probably dresses in tracked down in 1996 to a cabin in Montana, following a tip off by his brother.

Dr Tafoya, who appeared yesterday at a conference in Manchester organised by the National Criminal Intelligence Service, said he thought the Mardi Gra bomber, who has detonated 34 small bullet devices in the past four years, was "dramatically different" to Kaczynski. "He is nowhere near as sophisticated," he said.

"He is looking for attention, not money - that does not interest several key areas.

him. He has almost certainly got a scrapbook with all the reports of what he has done. Getting money will not stop him.

"I think he will go for a different target soon. It could be some other organisation that he thinks has harmed him."

He added: "Mardi Gra may have been insulted by a checkout girl or a bag boy. He may have bought a bad chicken from Sainsbury - it could be that simple. He probably feels undervalued for his hard work and has a paranoia about someone trying to do him harm or in sulting him."

which was exploded in a plastic bag near a Sainsbury store in south-east London on Thesday, are simply made and suggest the maker has a "menial job" such as caretaker or office worker, said Dr Tafoya.

The type of device used, which were first targeted against years to capture the Un- Barclays bank in 1994, also suggest the bomber may be a former military man or engineer, alternatively he may have belonged to a gun club, he added. He is likely to feel that he has "not got his just reward a boring manner and does not look out of place in some of the poorer districts of London, Dr Tafoya believes.

Asked how police should best proceed to catch the bomber, he said they could reexamine the first few bombing incidents when he is mostly likely to have made mistakes. "They should look at them upside down and backwards."

Dr Pafoya noted that the FBL had ignored the offender pro-He told The Independent: file of the Unabomber, which



Artists' impression: Models dressed by Yves Saint Laurent in the National Gallery room funded by the designer

High art joins high fashion

MASTERPIECES from France and the Netherlands go on show together for the first time today as four rooms in the National Gallery open to the public, following a £4m restoration.

The Gallery raised the cost of this, the first of two renovation phases for its North Galleries, from the private sector and more than half the funds came from France. The designer Yves Saint Laurent has supported the entire cost of the largest room (left) which houses 17thcentury Paris paintings, including Philippe de Champaigne's portrait of Cardinal Richelieu. The Queen and the Queen Mother have also backed the project.

Neil MacGregor, director of the National Gallery, described the support as "an outstanding example of European co-operation". The second £4m phase is due to open in the autumn of next year.



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Inquiry launched into plane nosewheel collapse

AN investigation was under way last night into why the posewheel of an aircraft suddenly collapsed shortly after it landed with 62 people on board. The 58 passengers and four crew escaped down emergency chutes on to the tarmac at Manchester Airport.

One passenger was taken to hospital with a broken ankle and another four were treated on the spot for minor injuries. Passengers on the 8.30am British Regional Airlines BA 7783 flight from Southampton later told how the ATP aircraft began shaking as the captain and first officer struggled to maintain control as the nosewheel collapse. It slewed sideways across the runway and came to rest with its nose against the ground.

Ten held over Maze killing

AT LEAST 10 Loyalist Volunteer Force prisoners in the Maze jail were arrested and questioned by police yesterday about the killing of a murder suspect in the prison. The move came after detectives returned to the LVF wing of the jail where David Keys, 26, was found murdered on Sunday. He was one of four men remanded in custody, charged with the murder of two friends, in a Poyntzpass, Co Armagh, pub.

Counterfeit gang jailed

A GANG of forgers which planned to flood the economy with millions of pounds of fake banknotes during the European football championships was yesterday jailed for a total of 26 years. Glasgow men Thomas McAnea, 48 and Raymond Dean, 44, who masterminded the plot, were found guilty of counterfeiting and conspiracy to defraud charges and jailed for 10 years and eight-and-a half years respectively. Three others were ailed for between one and five years. A sixth man was fined £1,000 after the eight-week trial.

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No hiding place for dangerous sex offenders

By Kim Sengupta

DETAILS about the whereabouts of paedophiles following their release from prison can be revealed to the public by the authorities, the Court of Appeal ruled in a landmark judgment yesterday.

The police and other government agencies will now be legally entitled to publicise where the freed sex offenders are living "to protect the public and in particular children". and the media will be allowed to name them.

The judgment comes just days after it was announced that up to 150 convicted sex offenders will be released from prison into the community without compulsory supervision. Six of those are said to be as potentially dangerous as child-killer Robert Oliver, who has already cost the public £100,000 in efforts to protect him from from vigilantes, and children from him.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Schiemann and Lord Justice Robert Walker stressed, however, that "disclosure should only be made when there is a

more should be done to find paedophiles appropriate accommodation after they had served their jail sentences.

The judges rejected an appeal by Peter and Christine Thorpe against a decision by North Wales police to release information about them. They also lifted an order preventing the media from naming the pair after being told that their present address was not known.

Mr Thorpe, 46, and his 42-year-old wife were described as "extremely dangerous people who will pose a considerable risk to children" in a report by Northumbria police. Both had left prison in July 1996 after serving seven years and four months of a 11-year sentence for the rape of a girl of 16, and a series of indecent assaults on young children.

Afterwards they had to flee from a series of places after local communities in the area became aware of their identity and crimes. The court was told the couple had co-operated with the authorities in the past, but they had now "gone to ground".

Giving judgment, Lord Woolf stated: "We agree with

The Link

pressing need", and urged that a Divisional Court that the policy of North Wales police was not unlawful, nor was the action of of the police in giving effect to that policy.

The more recent guidance of the Home Secretary is an improvement on that policy. It is reassuring to know that the latest policy will be applied in the future. Regrettably recent experience has confirmed that while some former offenders' behaviour has changed after serving their sentence, other offenders retain the propensity to repeat their offending and if given the opportunity to do so, commit further offences of the same or similar nature".

Paul Cavadino, principal officer of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the judgment was welcome because it allowed the police to give out information only when there was a pressing need to do so. "It will act as a valuable check on the way police forces decide whether to disclose sex offenders' identities to third parties. The court's emphasis on finding stable accommodation for released sex offenders is particularly welcome."



New Oyster cult: Nigel Coates at Earls Court with his 'energy-aware prototype for the expanding homes market'

Concept house takes flight for the future

THE NEW kid on the block at the Ideal Home exhibition is guaranteed to cause the net curtains in the adjacent show houses to tweak. It is called the

Coates, but from some angles it looks more like a Stealth Bomber landed inside Earl's

and shallow oval pod upper-

IN STORE NOW!

Oyster by its architect Nigel storey perched above the all-builders at the exhibition wantglass ground floor, this family house for four owes more to the aircraft industry than a mollusc.

Although he is the professor With its cross-shaped deck of architecture at the Royal College of Art, and his list of clients includes the Foreign Office and the Department of Trade and Industry, Nigel Coates is not a name you would normally link with the relentlessly untrendy Ideal Home exhibition. But he likes to play to big audiences, and so he entered a compention sponsored by Blueprint

called Concept House. Coates's creation doesn't any of those awkward plumbing pieces that might spoil the lift-off of its copper-clad roof. The copper will eventually verdi-gris which will soften its impact in the leafy suburbs

ed to prototype it. Instead London Electricity belped get one off the ground to generate interest. If enough of the 500,000 people expected to visit this year's exhibition want to see one in their cul-de-sac, then it will furniture. be possible to manufacture components for on-site assem bly. Coates estimates they could then sell for £100,000. "The idea

homes market." he says. The all-glass downstains is panelled with sections of Privalite glass which turn from need gutters and soil pipes and clear to opaque at the flick of indoors to provide surfaces for a switch. A liquid crystal coating activated by an electrical im-

is to make a fresh energy-aware

prototype for the expanding

pulse makes the change. Furnishing a round house used to be as easy as buying a water-bed and some poufes. But that kind of Seventies suba home None of the showhouse, urbin attitude wouldn't pass

Coates's style trial. Besides, he treats the space as a "soft oval". So he furnished it himself with straightforward easy pieces which are much more comfortable than they look to shatter a few myths about modern

Open-plan living can be exacting with two children. So Coates planned two stancases to turn the upstairs wing into two separate units.

Like all modernists, he is particular about soft furnishings. There are insulated shutters instead of floral curtains, while flimsy voile screens filter light mages beamed on them from LCD projectors which the architect calls "moving digital wallpaper". Downstairs, a sandy brown camouflage pattern called "Desert Storm" gives

street cred to the urban guerrilla.



THE Government yesterday the project was now up against lems" over the use of powerful global warming gases in the Millennium Dome.

Michael Meacher, the environment minister, blamed lack of consultation over hydroffurocarbons (HFCs) in the current row. The result was that

the launch of a first business plan for UK environment industries in London amid protests about the "anti-green" nature of the controversial dome now being built on air conditioning system for the Greenwich Peninsular by the Thames in south-east London.

Mr Meacher was speaking at John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to act over the "dangers" of using greenhouse gases in the system.

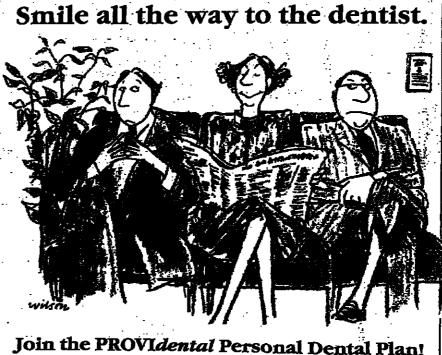
The Government has pledged to cut greenhouse gases, with the European Union, by at least 8 per cent by 2010 as agreed at the Kyoto summit.

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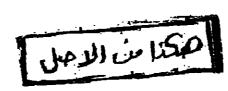
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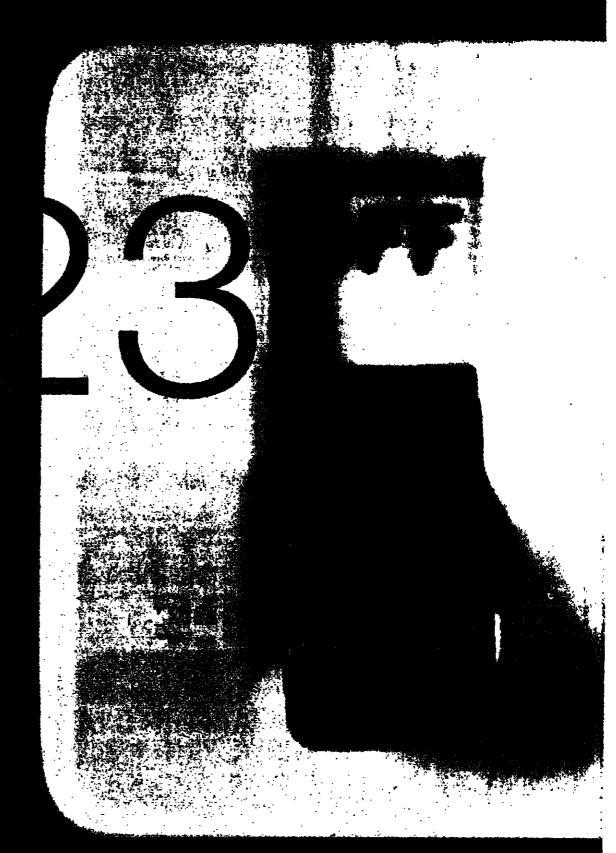






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Gas savings: Our monthly direct debit compared to our cash/cheque paid later than 10 days (32,237 kWh annual consumption). Electricity: Public electricity suppliers average direct debit prices compared to British Gas Savings: Our monthly direct depit compared to our cash/cheque paid later than 10 days (32,237 kWh annual consumption). Electricity: Public electricity (5,240 kWh annual consumption). Savings vary according to consumption.

Britain to lose most EU aid to regions

By Katherine Butler and Kim Sengupta

SOME of the poorest regions in the United Kingdom reacted with dismay yesterday at the prospect of losing hundreds of millions in European Union funding as Brussels announced a radical shake up of its aid programme.

London's protests about the scale of poverty in the United Kingdom were brushed aside yesterday as the European Commission unveiled proposals which would see British regions from Scotland to Comwall deprived of massive shares of aid. Overall, the country could lose almost 80 per cent of the sum it gets at present.

Britain was also warned by commission president, Jacques Santer, that its budget rebate negotiated by Baroness Thatcher in 1994 would have to be reviewed in the autumn when the European Union's next sixyear spending plans come up for renegotiation...

The commission says that reform of the system under which £ 23bn is given to the regions was inevitable with the EU's decision to admit up to 10 poorer countries from Eastern Europe and Cyprus.

Detailed changes announced by European Union regional policy commissioner, Monika Wulf Mathies, will see Northern Ireland and the Scottish Highlands and Islands disqualified from the priority aid bracket they currently enjoy after 1999. Because of improvements in living standards, they no longer pass the test that income per head is below 75 per cent of the EU average.

Merseyside will retain its claim for top rates of funding and for the first time South Yorkshire, which has sunk to levels of poverty on a parwith castern Germany, will see its share of aid doubled. But 13 regions with so-called "objective 2" status areas of industrial decline - will see



Skye bridge, linking island to mainland: Under the new proposals, the Highlands and Islands will lose their priority aid bracket status

their funding slashed because unemployment will be the main yardstick of poverty and jobless rates in most UK regions have fallen.

Commissioners overruled demands from the British government to have gross domestic product per capita also included as one of the criteria. Low-paid jobs mean that income per head in many British regions is well below the EU average. A last-minute attempt by commis-

sion member Neil Kinnock to blunt the worst effect of the cuts provoked angry debate among his colleagues. In the end, Mr Kinnock limited the damage slightly by ensuring that the fall in the percentage of Britain's population covered by EU aid would be no greater than one-third, but he failed to secure the fall of just one-

quarter that he wanted. A lengthy round of negotiations between EU governments on the share-out of a total package worth £126bn will now begin and could take up to a year with every member state besides Britain fighting for a better deal. The size of the aid cake. is down 12 per cent on what it was in 1993 when negotiations last took

For the years of 1994 to 1999, Britain's share came to £9.7bn, £6.5bn of which went to regions in England, £1.3bn to Scotland, £636m to Wales and £1.1m to Northern Ireland. But the British government points out that, despite being the fifth largest contributor to the EU budget, it is 11th in the league table when it comes to handouts.

EU officials say that it was "not realistic" for the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, to come to Brussels to preach about his successes in tackling unemployment while at the same time claiming poverty levels deal during the negotiations.

worse than those in Ireland. The President of the Board of Trade, Margaret Beckett, said last night that relying on unemployment to identify aid regions would be "unreliable and an unbalanced way of gauging regional deprivation. It would also be unfair to the UK which tends to have lower unemployment rates in equally poor areas". She vowed to negotiate for a "fair and affordable"

'Computer home for millennium'

By Charles Arthur Science Editor

A LABOUR MP came up with a new millennium target yesterday, a computer in every home, paid for by National Lottery funds.

Derek Wyatt said in a short debate on the Government's strategy for the Internet, that putting PCs into the UK's 23.5 million households for free by 2002 would "cost no more than the Millennium Dome - and be a better use of the cash." It would prepare children, who will soon all be guaranteed an email address at school, for a world in which "the Internet is the key to retooling and

reskilling our society".

A typical home PC costs about £1,000, meaning it would take roughly £240m to provide every home with one. The funding for the Dome total.: £700m.

Cailing for the creation of a new "Ministry of Communications", Mr Wyatt said it should have six "Internet Czars" who would train all ministers, MPs and departments to ensure they can cope with the growing influence of the World Wide Web. The new ministry's brief would include responsibility for telecommunications, proadcast, regulation, software, post offices, village halls

and the Internet. He added: "If this Government, sits on its Internet-free hands for much longer over this issue, any chance we have of creating a modern post industrial society will have been lost forever."

Currently, he said, the Internet is a more expensive pursuit than many others: the Media Intelligence Bureau has put the cost, including purchase of the computer, electricity, access and phone bill, at £3.87 per bour-compared with £1.67 for a trip to the movies and less than 12p per hour to watch free to air television.

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His comments received backing from members, including Labour's John Maxton, MP for Glasgow Cathcart. He said: "The state of Texas has now taken the decision that they are buying no more textbooks. Every child receives a laptop computer with an access to the Internet, so they get their information in that way. Isn't that the way we should be going forward in education in this country?"

Rural losers fear decline as Europe accused of moving the goalposts

BRITISH officials complained last it was desperately needed. He said: night that the goalposts have been moved on regional aid, and the regions which had lost out complained the lack of aid could have grave economic consequences.

Ulster Unionist Euro MP Jim Nicholson said Northern Ireland is losing out on funding at a time when ployment which we haven't got."

"If there is an opportunity for a different political climate and a return to a normal society in Northern Ireland, it's ridiculous that Brussels would deprive us of much needed funding at a time when we can move forward and create a level of em-

Liberal Democrat rural affairs spokesman Charles Kennedy, whose Ross, Skye and Inverness constituency qualified for Objective 1 funding under the existing system, declared he was ready to fight to keep that status. He added his party would "underline the continuing vulnerability of our economic base".

Highlands Council convenor Peter Peacock said the European. Union will be taking into account sparcity of city population when deciding which areas were eligible for the lucrative Objective 1 status. He to £1.2bn. continued: "That measure is. presently eight persons per squared. MP for Rotherham said: "This is the Bloomfie kilometre, ours is nine persons per best economic news this region has news".

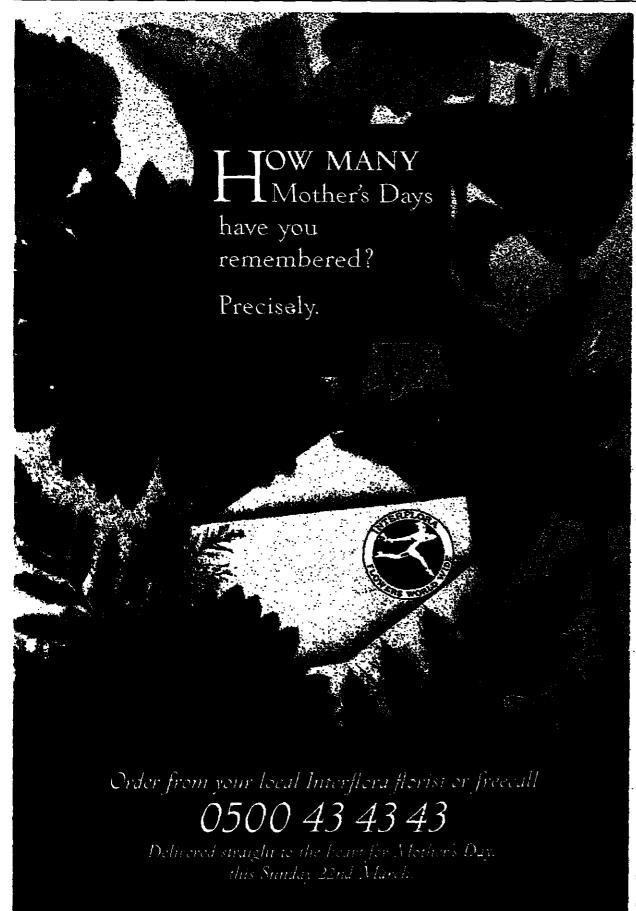
square kilometre. We are certainly had for 20 years. This will provide not giving up." However, there were also win-

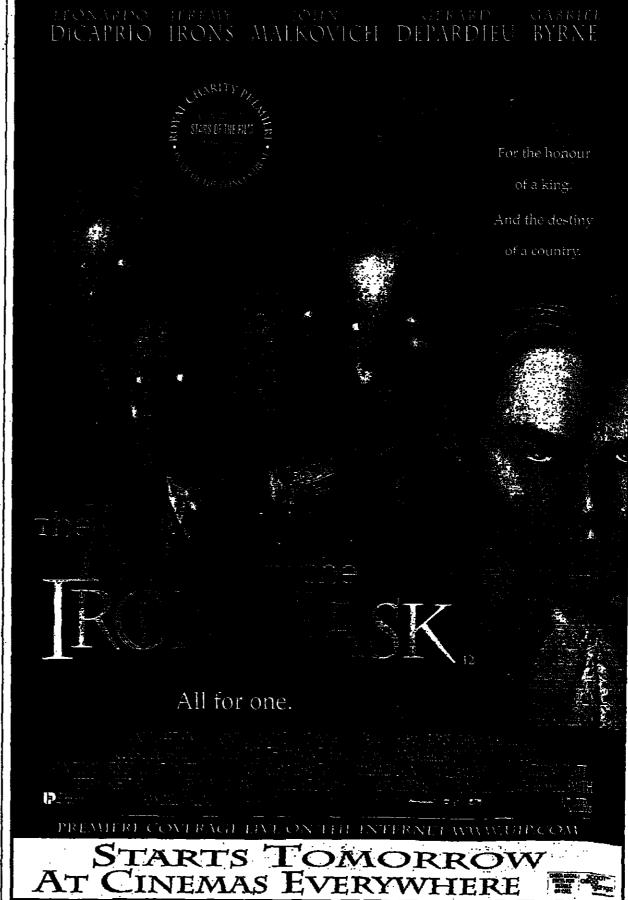
ners. Under the new proposals South Yorkshire stands to gain up

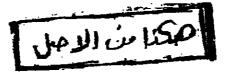
Dennis MacShane, the Labour

a massive boost for economic regeneration in Yorkshire."

Merseyside also welcomed the news it is likely to qualify for Objective 1. Merseyside Training and Enterprise Council chief Linda Bloomfield said it was "wonderful







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Bribery overseas will be offence in Britain

Chief Political Correspondent

BRITISH businessmen will face fines or imprisonment for using bribes to win big contracts abroad under new laws contained in an anti-sleaze Bill to be unveiled in the autumn by Jack Straw.

The Home Secretary will seek to clean up sleaze in Westminster and town halls across Britain with a package of measures in the wake of the "cash for questions" scandal involving Tory MPs in the last parliament. It will become an offence to bribe MPs.

The Independent has learned that it will also become an offence for British citizens to engage in bribery abroad. The international anti-corruption laws will be targeted at big overseas arms contracts involving British companies, and civilian projects such as dams and airports. In future, it will make it a criminal offence for a UK resident or company to bribe public officials in another

Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, pushed for the measure with the backing of Margaret

Trade. Britain signed a Treaty in December in Paris by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) which is to be ratified by the end of the year on outlawing international bribery and corruption.

Mr Straw is taking the lead in bringing the OECD declaration into UK law through the Home Office legislation. He told a joint select committee on parliamentary privilege in January that the Government would rout out dishonesty in public life and increase trust in those who held public office.

He said that the Government saw a review of the corruption laws as they applied to MPs as being an integral part of the domestic and international fight against corruption. A new single offence of corruption covering both the public and private sectors is expected to be introduced. Mr Straw is also studying the Nolan committee recommendation that anti-corruption legislation should be extended to cover behaviour that

amounted to misuse of public office. The pressure for government action against international corruption was

Beckett, the President of the Board of stepped up by a ministerial aide, Hugh Bayley, MP for York, who introduced his own backbeach Bill last month to promote the case for new laws against international

bribery and corruption. He was opposed by the Tory MP for Lichfield, Michael Fabricant, who warned that if bribery was made illegal for British companies, "it would probably rule many British companies out of applying for contracts abroad which would simply fall into the hands of French, German, Japanese, American and other competitors".

Mr Bayley said bribery was legal as long as the act of bribery took place offshore, and in some instances it was still a taxdeductible activity.

He said: "When bribery takes root, people start buying things that they do not need. Last year, the chief of naval staff in Pakistan resigned amid allegations of bribery in connection with a £580m purchase of submarines." Mr Bayley estimated that the global sums paid in bribery by some of the poorest countries in the world totalled £50bn, roughly the same as the sum needed to eradicate world poverty.

Drug offenders to be dealt with at special court

By Esther Leach

MAGISTRATES are soon to begin training for an experimental court dedicated to dealing with drug offenders.

They will spend two days looking in depth and discussing with experts the impact of hard drugs on society and the lives of people who take them and deal in them.

The JPs, all very experienced, will sit at Wakefield and Pontefract magistrates' courts in West Yorkshire, where they will decide if offenders go on rehabilitation programmes or are sentenced in another way.

Constance Gilbey, 68, chairwoman of Wakefield magisould not be s option for offenders.

Those who go on the treatment programme will follow a very strict regime which will restrict their freedom," said Miss Gilbey. "The idea is to help offenders to break the drugs habit and give them new lives ... what's useful to the offender will be useful to society.

Miss Gilbey, a JP for 38

to be convinced that the offenders who come to their court are committed to the treatment programme before they are allowed on to it.

The court, which begins work in June, is part of "Step" - substance misuse and enforcement programme - initiated by Wakefield Health Authority, drugs agencies in the area and the UK anti-drugs co-ordinator, Keith Hellawell, when he was chief constable of West Yorkshire, after they saw a similar scheme operating in Miami.

Police will refer offenders arrested for drug-related crimes to a Step worker who will assess them in the cells before they are bailed or remanded to the next trates, who is one of a pool of available drugs court, which 24 volunteer JPs, said the court will be held weekly in Wakefield

> Their treatment taken while on probation will involve detoxification, using drug substitutes, and therapy to change attitudes and behaviour. Regular urine tests will be made to check that no drugs are being taken.

An offender will go back to court regularly so magistrates can monitor their progress. If they do well they will graduate and the probation order

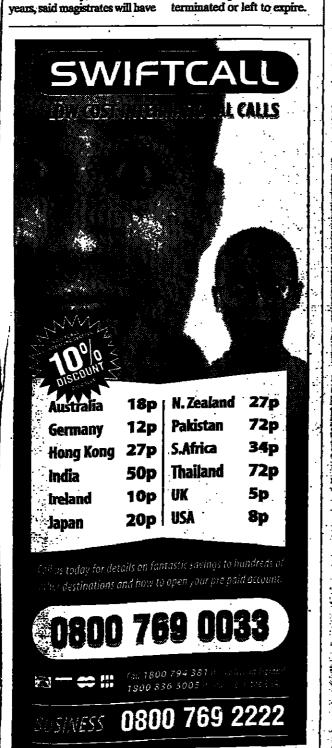
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THE CORSA BREEZE FROM VAUXHALL



friends in Syria and Lebanon

By Robert Fisk r Bertit

A BELLOW of thunder heralded the approach of Robin Cook, Middle East peace-maker extraordinary, hero of Har Homa and political descendant of Lord Arthur James Balfour, In the Lebanese foreign ministry, a hush fell as the Briton who lost his dinner invitation with Benjamin Netanyahu took his diminutive place before the microphones alongside the very tall Lebanese foreign minister, Faris Boueiz.

Having stood up to the might of the Israeli settlers, Mr Cook had just come from the halls of power in Syria where the Lion of Damascus - President Hafez el-Assad -- congrutulated him on the stand taken by the European Union in the Middle East, They had discussed Israel's offer (or threat, depending on your view) to stage a unilateral withdrawal from its occupation zone in southern Lebanon.

Mr Cook and his crocodile of dark-suited FO experts, of course, understand all too well how the Syrians feel. If Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon but stays in the occumight be able to persuade the world that it wants peace while keeping Golan - and without a war in southern Lebanon, the Syrians would not be able to encourage the Hizbollah to kill more Israeli soldiers and thus put further pressure on Israel to leave Golan. But that was not what Mr Cook said.

So what did Mr Assad tell

Blair to risk wrath

Tony Blair may visit some of the disputed territories in Israel next month in spite of the anger caused on Tuesday by the visit by Robin Cook the Foreign Secretary, writes Colin Brown, Chief Political orrespondent.

The Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, accused Mr Cook of breaching an agreement about not meeting any Palestinian official when he visited the Israeli settlement of Har Homa, known to Palestinians as Jebel Abu Ghneim.

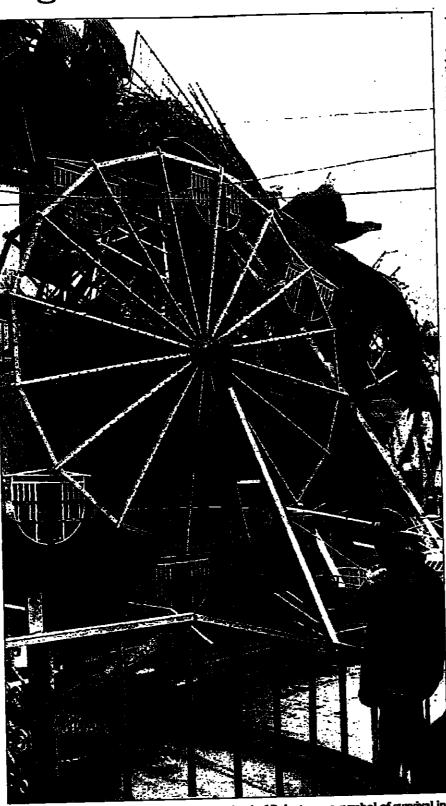
The Prime Minister's spokesman said Mr Blair would not be visiting the same settlement as Mr Cook. Mr Blair will be visiting Israel around 21 April.

Mr Cook? Our Foreign Secretary told The Independent:

"I think it is fair to say that they [the Syrians] do not themselves see a realistic prospect of a unilateral Israeli withdrawal. Were such a unilateral withdrawal to take place, that is a matter for the Israeli governpied Syrian Golan Heights, it ment. I think that if there were to be any discussion about the terms of that withdrawal, they [the Syrians] would, of course, expect the Syrian track to be part of that discussion, and we all want to see progress on that same track."

It was not difficult to see how the Middle East must tremble when Mr Cook speaks. Lord Balfour would have been proud.

Cook wins A giant of the war falls before the wrath of God



Blown away: Resisting all bombs, the big wheel of Beirut was a symbol of survival in on the Titanic (of which more Lebanon's civil war. But it couldn't stand up to this week's typhoon Photograph: AP

TRST, they ripped down the bombed-out American embassy. Then last year, the wreckage of the US Marine base - 241 US servicemen died in the 1983 suicide bombing - was bulldozed away. But on Monday God took a hand and tore down one of the Lebanese civil war's most enduring monuments: the great yellow, red and green ferris wheel that had turned merrily for the past 20 years. Bombs had exploded 20 yards away. Shells had crashed into the funfair behind. But it was a tempest of even more explosive proportions that brought the whole

thing twisting and buckling to the ground this week. I'd been on the big wheel myself with a score of Lebanese families. I'd even helped make a Channel 4 television series in which our cameraman, Steve Foster, filmed Beirut from one of the bucket chairs that now lies crumpled at the bottom of my street. But I wasn't surprised at its fate. Not in living memory had a typhoon of this proportion struck the city, a monstrous wind quite unlike the hamsin storm that normally dumps Egypt's grey sand over Lebanon at the start of spring. I flew back to Beirut on an Air France Airbus as the first tempest subsided, a great camel ride of a flight that landed in Beirut with a coating of yellow sand on the plane's wings.
For the sand falling across

Beirut is from a sahra wind, from Libya, along with so much rain that our sunsets have come dark red through the cyclone. At my home on the Corniche, the deluge has been flying horizontally off the sea, smashing into my apartment block to be blasted upwards by the wind. I found our family cat Walter named after the news editor of the International Herald Tribune - sitting in astonishment on the balcony as rain streamed from the ground towards the top of the house. Maybe this was what it felt like to go down

BEIRUT DIARY



Robert Fisk

N Tuesday, I drove down the rain-lashed coast to the south Lebanese town of Tibnin where the Irish battalion of the United Nations peace force was celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. Colonel Colm Doyle - Lord Carrington's ADC in Yugoslavia - inspected his men alongside the UN's new Fijian force commander, a massive figure - and a massive improvement on his Polish predecessor who filled almost every page of the UN's magazine, Politburostyle, with pictures of himself. The soldiers wore sprigs of shamrock, forced to receive their latest UN medals under a tent whose roof vibrated with the downpour. The UN's equally massive Turkish spokesman, Timur Goksel, had to shout to make himself heard, difficult since the confident, loquacious and brilliant - Goksel speaks English so well but at such

on the incomprehensible. ut what sounded over Tibnin on Tuesday were the claps of thunder that detonated down the airwaves to Ireland as RTE, the Irish state broadcasting service, interviewed its UN soldiers live down the line to Dublin. Presenters shouted through the storm as great blue and grey clouds trembling with lightning drifted down the wadis around Tibnin. And there at one point was Fisk, waffling on to Irish listeners about the inconsistencies of Lebanon's con-

speed that he sometimes verges

stitution - in Mayo, no bubt, they speak of little else - while being drowned out by fod's anger overhead.

inton's des fall des fall to their win trap

or a people inure to tragedy, you might conder why the Lebs ese have been turning out in legions to see *Tuanic*. But they hive, packing six cinemas (a Burut record) at 55,000 spectatos a week (another record). Des the liner's fate appeal to them as the elements close in an Beirut? Are they attracted by the name of the ship, which n Arabic means "Let's have sur? Or could it be that we weserners simply do not kno what the Beirutis know: that 13 Lebanese, praying vainly for God's mercy in steerage, we down with the Titanic, the names unrecorded because they boarded as wait-listed pas sengers at Cherbourg. For the most part, they were poor Christians from the Bekaa valley and - because their names went unlisted and, no doubt, because they were of "Middle East appearance" - no one in the great world cared about their fate except the families left behind in Lebanon.

"t was the same case with the five Sidon fishermen who vanished into the storm on Monday. Their names were buried in the weather reports in the papers, consigned to the waves which crashed over the coast road and sprayed across the wreckage of the Beirut ferris wheel. But on Tuesday, their two little boats appeared at the entrance to Sidon port. They had lost sight of shore, roped themselves together in the typhoon and fought off the sea for 12 hours while praying - Titanicstyle - for God's mercy. Astonished police and harbour workers watched the two battered hulks creep into calm waters. And so it was that Bassam Habli, Hassan Chaabane, Rifaat al-Aadil, Farj Halime and Khaled Awja came home.

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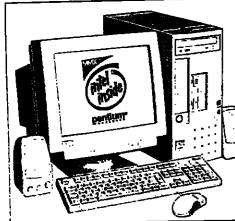
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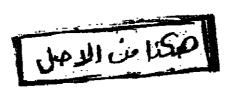
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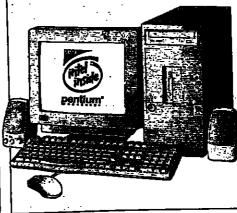
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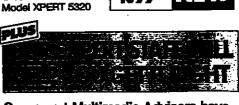
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of Goc * Clinton's aides fall into their

own trap

By Mar Dejevsky in Washgton

IF THE White House had hopecplaying dirty would deflect it squeamish Washington press orps from the chase after prsidential sex scandals, it had aother think coming yesterda. The heirs of Watergate hero; Ed Woodward and Carl Berntein seemed only riled by Whi: House attempts to discred Kathleen Willey, the woran who claims President BillClinton groped her when shevent to ask for a job. They voted to continue their hunt.

here was particular irritatio over the copies of letters arl telephone logs released by th White House on Monday, les than 24 hours after Ms Wilk's television appearance. The 2 handwritten letters, gnshingly athusiastic about Mr Chinton s president, were released in Jval Office on 29 November 1993, it had not diminished Ms Willey's devotion to the President. Therefore, the reasoning apparently ran, nothing had happened - or if it did, Ms Willey was happy about it.

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OUR EXPERT STAFF

HELP YOU GET !! BOH!

If it had been so easy to find and produce these records, reporters asked, what about letters and logs of telephone calls uation of Kathleen Willey, from Monica Lewinsky to the President? Washington reporters have enquired daily about such records ever since allegations two months ago that Mr Clinton had had an affair with the former White House about it.

Early on in the Lewinsky saga, the New York Times reported that White House visitors' logs showed the former House 37 times since she stopped working there in 1996. Some visits had taken place outside normal working hours. Since that leaked information was published, it has never been denied by the White House but neither have records been produced. The chorus from reporters now is: why not?

A series of damaging-limitthe White House communica-

tions director and Clinton ally Ann Lewis have also come in for criticism. She told several television shows she had personalhy met Ms Willey when she inquired about helping Mr Clinton's 1996 re-election campaign. Again, the inference was that Ms Willey could not have been so distressed by her 1993 encounter if she wanted to sign up again for the President's campaign. But Ms Lewis's defence has rebounded. Among her qualifications for her White House job, along with her support for Mr Clinton, were her feminist credentials. She had been vocal in her backing for the law professor, Anita Hill, in her epic struggle to prevent Clarence Thomas becoming a Supreme Court judge in 1991 because of alleged sexual harassment. Now, her defence of Ms Hill - in particular her explanation of why Ms Hill took n apparent attempt to show a decade to speak out against nat whatever happened in the Mr Thomas - is being cited against her.

"You have this really prestigious and powerful boss," Ms Lewis told an interviewer seven years ago, 'and think you have to stay on the right side of him or for the rest of your working life he could mx another job." Spot the difference between that situation and the sitchallenged the New York Times columnist, Maureen Dowd.

The challenge of the White House press corps has appeared to take officials unprepared. The normally unflappable White House spokesman, Mike trainee and induced her to lie McCurry, has seemed ill at ease since the weekend, and the usual team of "spinners" has shummed the cameras. Yesterday, the Washington Times, which takes a mostly anti-Clintrainee had visited the White ton line, reported that the decision to produce Ms Willey's letters had been made personally by Mr Clinton, who was now "directing" the attack.

More problematical for Ms Willey was a report that she still needed money and had tried through her lawyer to obtain a \$300,000 book contract for an autobiography around the time she made her sworn testimony ing television appearances by alleging the incident with Mr Clinton.



Taking liberties: President Clinton's White House scandals, as caricatured for a float in the recent Photograph: Reuter | over the same period. carnival parade in Cologne, Germany

Stockmarket figures just don't add up for Beardstown Ladies

A CHERISHED fantasy of America's share-owning democracy - that amateur investors can be as savvy as the professionals - has just come crashing down with an apology from the good ladies of Beardstown, Illinois, that they made a mistake, writes Mary Dejevsky.

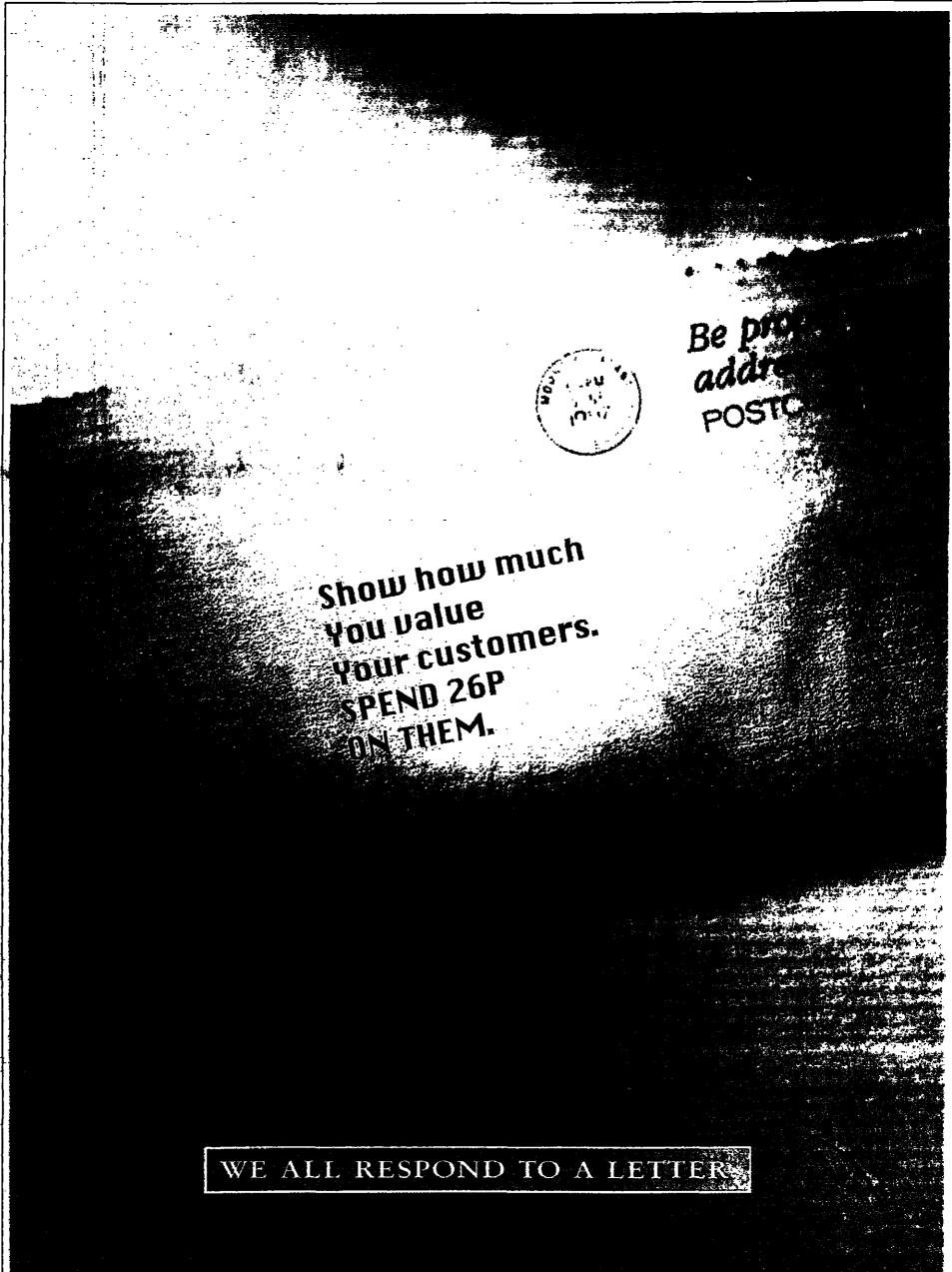
The Beardstown Ladies, average age 70, gained a reputation over the years for a commonsensical, mid-Western approach to small investment that claimed returns competitive with, and often superior to. those of the big stockbrokers.

The 14 members of the Beardstown Business and Professional Women's Investment Club devised a recipe for "stockpicking" that, according to their calculations, yielded a 10-year return on investments of more than 23 per cent. That compared with a 12 per cent increase in the Dow Jones Industrial Average

The professionals checked the figures. Alas for the ladies. their claim did not add up. The professionals found that the real return over the relevant period, the 10 years to 1993, was 9.3 per cent.

Now, Betty Sinnock, the club's treasurer, has issued an apology: "The Ladies were very concerned that the public would think we had purposely misrepresented results in any of our books," she said in a statement. "We shared this original rate of return in good faith and are terribly sorry for the error and the confusion it may have caused."

Perhaps the Ladies should not be too distraught. Their 23 per cent yield did happen, in 1991-92, and according to a professional audit by Price Waterhouse, their rate of return for the 14 years of their club's existence has been 15.3 per cent: respectably in line with mutual fund yields over the same period.





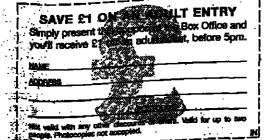
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Farmers face a market free-for-all



A scramble for free chickens at a Hungarian farmers' lobby of parliament. Reforms are seen as essential before countries like Hungary join the EU Photograph: Reuters

embarked on a nath of historic reform, aimed at returning much of its agriculture to the forces of the free

tory of its common farm policy, the move to phase out price supports, the cient European farmers, who have of the original CAP. been shielded from world trends for ally for food sales.

on rigging food prices, buying up food comes in the context of Agenda 2000, bies behind them. Britain, which has that cannot be sold on the market and a six-year plan to reform the way always led a cheap food policy, will

THE European Union vesterday Europe's agriculture policy faces its biggest shake-up for 35 years but the wealthy need not worry, writes Katherine Butler in Brussels

European Commission launched a policy, a ban on member states sub- the proposals saying they would sidising their own farmers from na- save consumers £1bn a year on the bedrock of the Common Agricultural tional coffers, would fall away for the price of food. "The rural environ-Policy since its creation in 1962. The first time. Some believe this marks ment will also benefit from the regoal is to allow Europe's most effithe first stage of the dismemberment

Eastern Europe early in the next cen-Much of the £30bn a year spent tury could bankrupt the Union. It

One of the keystones of the farm Minister of Agriculture, welcomed forms," he said.

Reform is being driven by fears foods - cereals, milk and beef more than three decades by artifithat extension of the CAP in its pre- would be slashed by up to 30 per cent cially high prices, to compete glob-sent form to 10 million farmers in from 2000 under the plan, though this could prove too much for EU governments and the powerful farm lobon subsidies to exporters, will go in- the EU spends 80 per cent of its be pushing for even steeper cuts

Announcing details of the widest stead to fund big increases in direct budget, ahead of the EU's eastward when the negotiations begin later this ranging shake-up in the 35-year his- welfare-type payments to farmers. expansion. Jack Cunningham, the month while others will fight to defend their national interests.

The Commission's plan aims to end the policy of stockpiling surplus food, particularly grain, to shore up the price. Without the guarantee of a market, prices would fall to world without the help of subsidies. The controversial setaside policy, paying farmers to grow nothing, would be scrapped. Franz Fischler, the EU farm commissioner, predicted that after the reform, "in cereals we will have a free market".

In spite of Mr Cunningham's duction than we have previously seen.

hopes, there are few reasons to believe the new policy will lead necessarily to much cheaper food. Some direct payments will be linked to the environment for the first time and more money will be available to promote rural development and the "fabric of the countryside". But intense political pressure from the national governments and farmers lobbies has recently forced the Commission to drop some of its more radical ideas. And some measures run Artificially inflated prices for key levels, allowing farmers to export counter to the Commission's earlier vision of a move away from factory farming to high quality food production, which safeguards rural areas. By putting Europe in a race for world food markets, critics believe the reform could encourage larger farms and even more intensive pro-

Good news for some ...

Big farmers win again

PROPOSALS to curb the amounts of subsidy the richest indivinal landowners can claim from the CAP are regarded by critics as a ike. Many will still become millionaires just because they own thousads of acres of land. In 1995 alone three British farms shared cheque of over £5m in aid before they sold even their grain.

The new CAP will introduce a direct aid ceiling. But it is set so the it is only triggered after the first £60,000 a year and then the subsides only begin to taper by 20 per cent. To lose a penny a farmer's ceres growing area would have to be at least 800 acres. Up to 3,000 Britis farms fall into this bracket.

For the biggest, most efficient farmers the stripping away of pre supports and restrictions on the volume of cereals or milk they can puduce at low cost is welcome. However, small farms will be hit by pri cuts of up to 30 per cent which will be only partially compensated at many fear that, unable to withstand the exposure to competition, the will leave the business.

Supermarkets reap rewards

BIG supermarket chains like Tesco and Sainsbury look set to reap the biggest rewards from the latest EU effort to scale down the price support system enshrined in the CAP.

Like the grain traders and meat exporters who operate in the middle, the retail giants will see their costs come down substantially. Farm gate prices will no longer be supported in the way they have been thanks to the phasing out of "intervention" under which Brussels was legally committed to buying up any food which could not be sold at a minimum price. Cutting the price of cereals is pivotal because it lowers the cost of animal feed and affects the cost to industry of many basic ingredients.

... but not for others

Taxpayers still fund support

SAVINGS for British consumers from the farm reforms are put at £80 a year for the average family. That adds up to £1.53 a week which is cold comfort considering that the CAP adds £20 a week on to the weekly shopping bill for a family of four.

Guaranteed prices to farmers are being slashed by 30 per cent but that has only a marginal impact on the price of food in the shops. Governments will end up shelling out even more public money to support agriculture as a result of the changes. The additional cost is estimated at between £3bn and £4bn a year, an increase of around 10 per cent.

Cost to the environment

THE strategy behind the reform is to allow EU farmers to compete in the global race for food markets. Critics say this will inevitably encourage high yield, intensive factory farming so that costs that are higher in Europe than in the US or Australia can be sliced.

On the one hand EU commissioner Franz Fischler is urging governments to make 20 per cent of farmer payments conditional on compliance with reduced use of pesticides and fertilisers and a reduction in the number of animals stocked per field. On the other he is to retain a filbn a year subsidy for producers of maize silage which is the key to cheap beef and milk production on the continent. Environmentalists regard it as the single most harmful measure in the CAP. It is connected with high use of pesticides which leach into the soil and



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left set for dramatic right-turn

THE ABRUIT pensioning off of Johannes lau, the grand old man of the (erman left, preright-turn by the Social Democrats, little short of the forge a programme. Blairite revoltion in Britain.

throne in North Rhine-Westlittle help from Gerhard "most market-oriented" pro-Schröder, th SPD's chancellor gramme to date. It made all the candidate. After 19 years as regional primominister, reigning and the need to modernise, but over 17 millon people, he is to fell short of the specifics busibe succeeded by Wolfgang ness hoped to see. Clement, a lose Schröder ally.

longevity, etting an age of re- conference delegates. tirement fir politicians can only help the oposition's cause.

with the "dead man's shoes" environment.

principe, the tandem counts for The Greens are aware their a generational change.

Mr Clement is on the same government.

wavelength as Mr Schröder, but has until now been unable to enter debate about the kind of policies that a new Social Democrat government should pursue. Disagreements between pares the way to a dramatic Mr Schröder and the rest of the party have paralysed efforts to.

The unveiling of the mani-Mr Rau ws prised out of his festo scheduled for earlier this week had to be postponed bephalia, the mst populous Land cause the party presidium could in Germanywith more than a not agree on details of their

The next attempt will come At first gapce, the swap is a , at the SPD's national conferbrilliant maketing ploy. Mr ence next month. Unlike pre-Rau quits at the age of 67, in the vious occasions of its kind, Mr year when the year-old Helmut Schröder will no longer stand Kohl is going for his fifth term on the rostrum completely as Chancelly. With a growing alone. The regional party that majority of Germans exasper- is now under Mr Clement's ated by Mr Kohl's political thumb accounts for one-third of

Besides trying to impose their will on their own party, the The Scial Democrats will two men are also challenging asnow follow into battle a - rela- sumptions about the SPD's futively - pritely Mr Schröder, ture coalition partners. Mr aged \$, flanked by Mr Clement inherits a fractions Clemen, a mere 58. On the Red-Green government in Germa scene, where advance- North Rhine-Westphalia, beset ment i strictly in accordance by acrimonious rows over the

cause will find even less sympa-The new packaging, which thy with the new prime minister, has already sent the SPD's poll just as the environmentalists in ratin to dizzy heights, conceals Bonn can expect few favours subsance that the Schröder from a future Chancellor camaign has so far lacked. The Schröder. The latter has already charcellor candidate is a prac- served notice that unless the titiquer of right-wing econom-. Green leadership can whip their ics to the delight of business but fundamentalist troops into line, to he dismay of his own party. they can forget a place in the new



Hacker held

An 18 year-old Israeli computer hacker known only as "The Analyser" and wanted by the FBL has been arrested. Israeli police said the backer is accused of "infiltrating computers in Israel and the United States".

- AP, Jerusalem

Dope trial

THE first criminal trial of doping practices in sport opened in Berlin yesterday, with the defendants claiming to be the victims of a political vendetta. Four swimming coaches and two doctors of the former East German club Dynamo Berlin are charged with causing grievous bodily harm to 19 girls by feeding them anabolic steroids in the 1970s and 1980s. - Imre Karacs, Bonn

Gaullist expelled

THE former secretary-general of the Gaullist RPR, Jean-François Mancel, was expelled yesterday for refusing to shun the extreme right wing National Front, Mr Mancel has indicated that he is ready to forge an alliance with the NF following Sunday's regional elections to block the governing leftist coalition from taking power in his area.

Albanians accuse Serb police of opening fire on protesters

lice of opening fire on a peace-

writes Andrew Gambel.

party in Kosovo accused Serb po-ciding with new efforts by in-banian party, the LDK. The Serful demonstration in the city of persuade Serbs and Albanians issued a statement denouncing Pec yesterday, killing one person to sit down and hammer out an vandalism by Albanian demonand wounding at least five more. agreement on Kosovo's status. strators in five towns in Koso-

The incident, which could not em Kosovo, near the Albanian police retaliation. immediately be confirmed, ap- border, was reported by the peared to signal an escalation in Kosovo Information Center, banians have been able to never give the province up even

THE MAIN Albanian political tension in the province coin- the mouthpiece for the main Alternational negotiators to bian Information Ministry The violence in Pec, in west- vo. but made no mention of

For the past nine days, Al-

protest peacefully against Ser- though they are outnumbered bian rule with little or no resistance from the security forces.

Resentment has been growing, however, with gangs of gerous impasse, with the Serbs Serbs standing on street-corners during demonstrations, apparently itching for a fight. Serb nationalists vowed that they would

to talk to a Serbian government nine-to-one by Albanians. delegation.

The US special envoy Robert Diplomatically, the situa-Gelbard was in Pristina yestertion appears to have hit a danday, as was a delegation from the still refusing to withdraw their Italian religious community of Sant'Egidio, which negotiated forces from the cluster of vilthe framework of an agreement lages they attacked two weeks ago, killing more than 80 peoon education between the two ple, and the Albanians refusing



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South Kensington, there is the same thick smell of incense that you can inhale in every Russian church from Vancouver to Vladivostok. The singing, with its full, throbbing bass line, is equally Russian - rousing and melancholy by turn. In an Orthodox church, the only musical instrument is the human voice, which fills the echoing space. The service is not for the faint-hearted: it is much longer and more leisurely than its namby-pamby western equivalent, lasting an average of three hours at a stretch. Except for the very old or infirm, worshippers stand throughout the service. as the music and the incense swirl around them. There are no pews, and worshippers move around - lighting candles, listening to the music, kissing icons or lost in prayer. In short, a very Russian event.

And yet, many of the Kensington congregation (and of the Russian-singing choir) are not. Even some of the priests are British. Bernadette Sharpe, a nurse, found the music "much more spiritual" than anything she had heard before. Freke de Graaf, an acupuncturist, was attracted by the "joy" of the church. "It's really alive. It's not just a Sunday church. And the tradition of the theology is rooted very deep," he says.

While the Catholic and Anglican churches constantly seek to reinvent themselves, reforming the content and language of services, the Orthodox church - in effect, a group of churches - finds its strength in standing still.

It would seem to be the very antithesis of modernity, priding itself on its refusal to follow the fashions of the rest of the world. In some respects, that is precisely what has ensured the Orthodox church where it is rooted, but also in Britain at the end of the 20th century. No modern fads: just the church, the music, and God.

AT THE Russian Orthodox cathedral in of modernity. At the Royal Academy in London, an exhibition opens today which pays homage to the the simplicity and complexity of Russia's religious art. In the West, the link between religion and art has been almost severed. We expect to see a Madonna and Child in an art gallery. not in a church. At an Orthodox service, by contrast, small icons are dotted around the church, and the large central iconostasis forms a focal point.

The art has a severe beauty which stands in stark contrast to the lushness of Western art. None the less, the austerity is never removed from earthy reality. In Andrei Tarkovsky's classic film Andrei Rublev, about the greatest icon-painter of all, the two themes are powerfully merged: the painful realities of the artist's life give way in the final minutes to the hitherto unseen glories of Rublev's art itself.

For many, the Orthodox church is the end of a long spiritual search. Father Michael Fortounatto, one of the Russian priests in London, describes a not untypical phone call last week from a woman who was keen to be admitted to the Orthodox Church. "She grew up an Anglican. She's been through India, and meditation. Now, she has decided to come to us." As the 20th century gives way to the 21st, the number

of converts is growing.

Deacon Joseph Skinner, himself a former Catholic, talks of the importance of ceremony. "In the Orthodox church, there is a sense that people are standing before the presence of God. Even in a church as ancient as the Catholic Church, something very precious has been lost. It has become introverted, on man and his world." He insists, however, that this is "not world-deaying - it's profoundly world-affirming. We the ground and our head in the heavens."

BBC's religious current affairs programme, The art is part of that deliberate lack Everyman, is another convert. He has re- Orthodox followers in this country. He vices in this country has increased with strong. The Serb Orthodox Church has (Chatto & Wadus, £12.99)



cently published an account of his voyage to the certainties of the Orthodox church.

The composer John Tavener - who when his Song for Athene was performed

sees the Western tradition as deeply from agnosticism through hesitant belief flawed: "I'm not very at home with humanism." He emphasises the idea of "not-He talks admiringly of the "combination knowing" instead of rationalism, and of matter-of-factness about the cere- argues: "We don't know. We cannot monies and a high seriousness of purpose". judge. Only God can really judge what's going on inside a person's soul."

Until recently, the Russian congregation at the cathedral in Ennismore Gar-

diplomats from the Russian embassy - official representatives of the Soviet Communist government just a few years ago coming to have their children baptised, and to receive baptism. Even now, however, Britons make up as much as a third of the congregation. English-language leaflets at the cathedral encours

Elsewhere, the importance of the Peter France, former presenter of the at the funeral of Diana, Princess of dens consisted only of a few emigrés. Now church as an exclusive bearer of nation- on Friday. Wales, last year - is one of the best-known the number of Russians at Orthodox ser- al identity (foreigners not welcome) is Peter France Journey: A Spiritual Odyssey

avoided public criticism of the authorities. In return, they (though not their congregations) were allowed a relativity comfortable life, though constantly uder the beady eye of the KGB. The stringe cohabitation led to a split in the chuch, with a separate emigré Russian Churclin London - a split which persists seven ears after the collapse of Communism.

In Russia today, the Church's more important than ever. The powerd may-or of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, ha made the rebuilding of the Church of the Saviour in central Moscow (dynamical by Stalin in 1931) one of the most him-pro-file and ambitious items on his ageda for the New Moscow. The rebuilding of the church is seen by many Russianses proof of Russia's intrinsic greatness.

The art which goes on displa at the Royal Academy this week represents the spiritual, non-national side of he Orthodox churci - the side that has atracted so many supporters in this country, is they seek to break away from the pereived wishy washings of much Western region. Tavener emphasises the spiritual quitties of Orthodox yorship and art alike: "Vhen I see a Renaisance painting of the Nother and Child that I see is a fat Italian laby, wonderfully executed. Such a picure conveys no tleology - which an icon vill always manage to do because it is not stiv-ing to be realistic."

With this "ack-to-basics" quality, it ses

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Take nine and

itself as the ore church from which tie Catholics broke away, just as the Protetants later broke away from Rome. In otler words, no agzags here. As Peter Franc. notes in his Journey: "The Orthodo: church couldnever be accused of being. trendy." In some respects, that is true. None the less, events fashions come and go, the confident traquillity that the Church offers is more indemand than for many years. The Church carcely changes, just as the art has changed only imperceptibly over the years. It des not need to go to the people; the people come to it.

The Art of Hily Russia at the Royal Acadfarch to 14 June 10am to opm daily, wit extended opening to 8.30pm

DILEMMAS

Keep quiet about the neighbour from hell — let the buyer beware



VIRGINIA **IRONSIDE**

THERE was a card game I al- all learn, the hard way; that in lour. Maybe the woman would ways used to like playing called cases like these it is usually bet-Old Maid. You took out all the ter to leave such things to the Queens except the Queen of Spades, dealt the cards and, top side up and fanned out, you of her landlady/freeholder being fered your hand to the person on your left who had to take one. The aim was to get rid of the Queen of Spades. It was extremely entertaining to see how people presented it - some nonchalantly hidden behind another card, some doublebluffing and sticking it out obviously, some tucking it behind. NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA As soon as you got a double you could get rid of two of your

became Old Maid. Clara's problem reminds me of this game. Except unlike the players of the card game she's tempted to draw attention to the Queen of Spades, not the point

cards but someone was always

left with the one Queen - and

Why should she say anything? If this couple are so broke or cheese-paring to do their own conveyancing, they have to live with the consequences. They will learn, as we

Clara and her husband have wanted to move from their flat since they moved in. The freeholder throws water over them if they go into their garden, they can't get an extension built because she blocks it due to a badly-written lease. Now a lovely pregnant couple want to buy, doing their own conveyancing. Should Clara warn them?

professionals. How does she know, anyway, that, rather than the neighbour from hell, they themselves aren't the neighhours from hell, and that far from being the delightful flatowners they think they are they may be driving the poor woman mad with their peculiar behav-

Dear Virginia, This is a very

tricky problem but it concerns

me. I can't give you my name as

When I was about If my

brother came into my room oc-

casionally and after a while we

had sex. I was too young to en-

joy it very much but I didn't mind

it, and when he got a griffiend

after about a year he stopped.

I look back on my childhood and

find it filled with things that peo-

behave completely differently if there were a young baby on the scene. Unlikely, I know, but

quite possible. We have all had to learn lessons in our youth and very few people help us out. We've all bought scent from a tout in Oxford Street and found it was just water; we've all bought soap and dusters at the door from people selling for religious Finally I told the dealer the

flasher at eight. A groping un-

de who'd tickle me in parts l

suffered at all, I have a wonderful

marriage, a happy sex-life, and

three wonderful children. I'm

worried, in other words, that I'm

not worned. Do you think all

this will suddenly catch up with

And yet I don't seem to have

didn't like being tickled.

ple would now call abuse. A Letters are welcome, and every-

soap turns to a kind of gritty stone and the dusters fray at the hems; I once even bought a dead tortoise from a market petshop that they persuaded me was just "asleep". We've all had to learn the hard lesson that when something's cheap we ought to be on our guard.

I was in a similar position recently when I had to sell a car which had an intermittent fault. It used to cut out suddenly whether going at 20mph or 60mph on a motorway. It was most unnerving and it was only because I knew the car well that I prevented several accidents. No garages could find the fault, even though they borrowed it for weeks. Only one garage even admitted it existed. Eventually I took it to a dealer. At the back of my mind I kept thinking of the parent who might buy the car for her son, who'd only just passed his test, and kill himself on the M4. I was in a cleft stick.

one who has a suggestion quot-

ed will be sent a bouquet from

Send comments and sug-

gestions to Virginia Ironside at

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Tuesday morning. If you have

a dilerrana of your own, please

let me know.

organisations and found the problem and made him promise on his mother's grave that he would warn potential buyers of the problem or make sure his ish innocents they are. Without the necessary inquiries congarage sorted the problem out. He promised. I have no doubt he never kept his promise and never meant to. I took the mon-

ey and felt dreadful. Clara and her husband could say to the couple that the landlady had been known to be a little difficult sometimes. That might salve their guilty consciences. But apart from that, they should remember the old Latin phrase Caveat Emptor -Let the buyer beware.

WHAT READERS SAY

When selling anything that is shoddy, inferior or second-rate your only hope is that a "mug punter" will show an interest. A flat with a restrictive lease and a loony neighbour in tow could only be sold to a mug. Unless your prospective buyer asks pertinent and direct questions about the lease, the neighbour or planning restrictions I would not raise these matters at all. If they do ask these frankly obvious questions then more fool

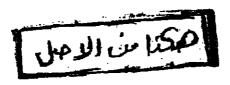
Mr Maynard Chitty, Liverpool

Grit your teeth, bite the bullet, put a pillow in your mouth to muffle the screams of your raging conscience and exchange contracts. Did the previous owner warn you about your psychotic neighbour? Would you have moved in if they had? Thought not. Jamie Same,

The fact that the prospective conveyancing solicitor, they will buyers are "doing their own be walking into a minefield. conveyancing" shows what fool- Such a solicitor would raise all the protection of legal advice on cerning landlord/neighbour haleasehold intricities from a good rassment, and advise on the

usatisfactory terms of the ase, all of which would probally result in bringing the pospective buyers to their senscand the sale going off.

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The man who built the future

Creating the fantastic capital city Brasilia was the highlight of Oscar Niemeyer's career, but his work did not stop there, as he tells Nonie Niesewand

IN HIS shabby, Sixties-style, top-floor flat in Rio, architect Oscar Niemeyer is musing on his long life after being told he has won the Royal Institute for British Architecture's gold medal for architecture. "I've spent my entire life at the drawing board just thinking about architecture," says the 91-year-old. Now he's "very, very happy".

Niemeyer was in a very different frame of mind when I interviewed him just in December. Then, he said mournfully: "There's nothing to celebrate. It's terrible being old." Not so terrible when you have just won one of the most prestigious awards in the world. As the medal citation puts it: "At the opening of the century, Oscar Niemeyer expressed the challenge of the new horizon, and his work was suffused in optimism and hope. At the opening of the next millennium, modern architecture is perhaps set to regain something of that optimism."

In Brasilia, the capital city he carved out of the savannah in the Fifties, Niemeyer has long been lauded. There was samba in the streets in his honour and a carnival to celebrate a decade as a World Monument site, along with the 300-year-old Great Wall of China.

Longevity has not blocked Niemeyer's creativity. On a clear day in Rio, he can point out his latest project across the bay, says dismissively. On this, his first project, the museum of modern art in Niteroi, which landed on a rocky promontory like a flying saucer last year. The outer rim is a walkway, the segmented core for sculpture and partitions for paintings. It cannot have been architecture that was more expressive." easy for the curator, but the people love it. sketches for me the seminal buildings of his commission of the century from President



Niemeyer, above, designed his cathedral in Brasilia, above right, in order to 'avoid the old dim cathedrals that remind you of sin'

60-vear-old career. Some of them, such as the Oxford college he blueprinted or the desert city in Israel, both designed in the Seventies, never got off the drawing board. First, he sketches Pampulha town,

which he began in 1940, just three years after setting up his practice in Rio. He had already decided that modern architecture did not express itself well in concrete. "Monogamous, rationalist, repetitive," he he used cement to bring a sense of structural lightness to his building. "Reinforced concrete freed creative expression. We pushed it to its sculptural limits to make

Creating Brasilia - the city where he Armed with a magic marker, Niemeyer gave expressive form to function - was the

Juscelino Kubitschek, who ran up a debt with the World Bank to build a showcase in the desolate landscape. A competition for the town plan was won by Lucio Costa (Sir William Holford of RIBA was one of the judges). He drew it in the shape of a fish skeleton: airports and cemeteries in the tail an arterial road for the backbone, diagonal fish bones leading to the residential areas that feed the head and, like a glassy eye, a white marble square flanked by Congress, the Legislative Assembly and ministries.

"In 1952 Brasilia was a desert, hostile, no road, nothing. It was the end of the world," says Niemeyer. At the Palacio Planalto, the seat of government, he set slender columns wide apart and imagined himself walking between them as a way to reach the desired form. "I wasn't concerned with structural

rigour," he says. Sometimes, he anchored seemingly fragile buildings in water. Diplomats walk over the water, set about with Amazonian lilies by genius gardener Roberto Burle Marx. They go to the theatre in a pyramid studded with an overall bump basrelief which casts interesting shadows. The executive council works in a building shaped like an executive toy, with cats' cradle tensile wires rigged to a square frame, and the flat roof of the legislative assembly is topped with two huge cement bowls.

No matter how monumental, the buildings appear to hover above the red earth on these stiletto-shaped columns. Niemeyer says: "When someone goes to Brasilia, I warn them, like it or not, you won't be able to say you've seen something like it before." The cathedral is a tepee, whaleboned in white cement and filled in with turquoise, indigo and aquamarine glass clouds and doves. "I avoided the old dim cathedrals that remind you of sin and made the access a narrow darkened gallery, so that when you step into the stained-glass nave, you open up to infinity," he says. Yet Niemeyer insists he has no faith. Politics is more important to him. A life-long communist, he wants a society without class barriers.

Ironically, four years after creating this powerful seat for a left-wing government, a military junta took over, remaining for 20 years. Niemeyer flitted in and out of South America for years, working in France and Algeria and for Italian publishers Montadori, where he varied the columns in size like a musical score. " I showed them what could be done in rein-

forced concrete," he reminisces on stretching the span from 50 metres to 33 metres and thinning it down at the Algerian University to the horror of a French official. "That's why Brasilia was a positive thing for the Brazilian people. It gave the world the idea that we could do many things".

Photographs: Camera Press/RHPL

On his return, he made more monuments but this time with a political message. First there was the Kubitschek catafalque in Brasilia, in memory of his life-long friend. Then the Monument Volta Dedonda north of Rio, in honour of the workers during that time. In Sao Paulo, a monument of a gigantic hand with blood running from it was designed by Niemeyer to give Latin America a new sense of cultural identity. No need to ask him what he sees as a monument to himself. He's got Brasilia.

Take nine architects...

Youth and ambition are at the heart of project to rebuild part of west London

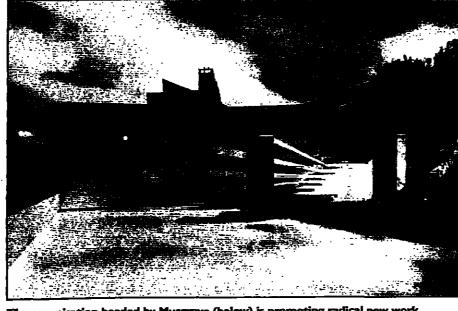
IN A rubble-filled strip of sand that passes for a London riverside beach, small boys use sticks to push anything that floats into the Thames. That includes a dead cat and a lot of plastic botties, writes Nonie Niesewand. To get on to the beach, they made a giddying assault on the high stone walls built to prevent people from straying near the water, let alone even glimpsing it. Just walking at the water's edge means a detour because the waterfront is blocked by a wharf.

The roar of the traffic under nearby Hammersmith flyover booms like the sea, so you might as well go under Hammersmith flyover for all the pleasure of this riverside walk. Except that women are frightened of the subways.

The site is just one of nine blots on the west London landscape which Hammersmith and Fulham council wants to be rid of by throwing money and arhitects at them. The first task, however, is to canvass local opinion, and the Architecture

Foundation has been brought in. The organisation, launched seven years ago to promote discussion and understanding of the built environment, first became involved in Hammersmith by hosting a roadshow. Environment minister Nick Raynsford went along, as did the former Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer and architect Lord Richard Rogers, a launch member of the Foundation and now its chairman.

But once all the photo-calls are over, the person responsible for making this sort of event succeed is Lucy Muserave. She has the tough job of touring the pouncil estates to get recalcitrant residents to turn out and tell the experts what they like or dislike. Wormwood Scrubs was the worst, she says with people shouting at her to leave. She'd have like to know what they think: the Scrubs, after all,



The organisation headed by Musgrave (below) is promoting radical new work

is not just a prison, but a neighbouring open space which is the most underused in the borough. At the Riverside Studios last Saturday the response was much much better. Fifty-eight local people turned up to write

everyone wants to stay closed. Improved access to the river. More litter collection. Less Chris Evans and TFI Friday, which brings a huge audience and their cars around the Riverside studios each week.



stay closed, better access to the river, more litter collection

down what they wanted. More. reeds, ducks, playground equipment, lights in the subway. Tranquil corners and quiet places. A mini eco-farm. Safer stairs down to the beach by Hammersmith Bridge which

Everyone wants the bridge to

On hand to hear their problems was a council co-ordinator and the young architect designated to the project, Robert Barnes, an artist working in light, and a landscape designer. They will address all of these issues in a series of schemes to revitalise the riverside walk between Hammersmith Bridge and Queen Caroline Street. When all nine schemes are in, the Council will determine how much money to allocate each. They are committed to spending some in each area but the better the local response, the more money goes their way.

Lucy Musgrave is trying to take architecture off its pedestal and get a dialogue going with the people who must live with it. When she began at the Architecture Foundation, she booked Westminster Hall for an open forum on London. It was enormously successful.

Now this could be a blueprint for the nation. At the end of May a one-day symposium will be held to review the results of the previous two months and politicians, architects and planners will assess what has been achieved. n The Architecture Foundation's latest exhibition is New Architects - Britain's best young architectural practices, from 24 March at 30 Bury Street, London SW1.

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Blair-Brown split that never was

TONY'S in a jealous rage – says conventional wisdom. Gordon is in the driving seat; he is the real Prime Minister. The wall that separates Numbers 10 and 11 Downing Street is plastered with suspicion and papered with rivalry. So say the pundits, and what else - after the general enthusiasm at Gordon Brown's Budget on Tuesday - do right-wing commentators have to go on? It's the birth of Brownism, they cry, though Tony stayed his hand over Individual Savings Accounts and Tony is the real friend of the middle

It is certainly true that the two derive from different political traditions and that their instincts incline them to different audiences. Where Blair really does have a feel for Middle England, and is at home with the Home Counties, Brown is a Scottish Labour man. The Chancellor is steeped in Labour culture, so that it has coloured his mind and emotions: the Prime Minister has hardly been dunked in it for longer than the average teabar.

But no two politicians are identical. These two, at least, spent years engaged in a strikingly intimate political conversation about modernisation; and it is the fruit of that conversation, not their earlier political education, that drives Blair and Brown's New Labour. Brown's Budget was an instalment on the social market project fashioned jointly with Blair in Opposition.

To reports of petty remarks by one man about the other (or, more likely, by their staffs) the response has to be this: rivalry between Chancellor and Prime Minister is virtually built into our constitution. Number 11 has been filled several times before now by men who had been pipped for the leadership and still harboured ambitions. Think of Jim Callaghan. If Gordon Brown is now convening policy seminars in his front room, is that so very different from Callaghan's picking of Nuffield College's finest brains in the mid-Sixties or Lord Lawson's think-tanking in the late Eighties? Farther back still, Hugh Dalton did not relinquish his membership of the Pabian Society on becoming Chancellor, nor his ambition to succeed Clement Attice. It would indeed be abnormal, and probably unwelcome too, were Gordon Brown not to have his eye on the main chance.

The interesting question is whether he and Tony Blair do differ either in philosophy, approach or tactics. And here the evidence is compelling. They not only share the same big picture, but complement each other skilfully day to day. If we ought to label Gordon Brown's antecedents more obviously "socialist", there is nowadays nothing identifiably more left-wing about his beliefs. Together they accept the limits to government action to "manage" an internationalised economy; they believe that labour-market reform is the key area for policy; both see how, notwithstanding the historical allegiance British business has shown to the Conservatives, it can be Labour's working partner.

It's handy to present Mr Brown as a dour Presbyterian who believes everyone holds their salvation in their own hands and that, in the modern, secular world, emancipation comes through earned income, meaning a job. He does think this. But every part of that code is shared by the almost-Catholic Prime Minister, especially the belief that collective action (government) retains a key role even in an individualised world. Its job is to help people on their way towards realisation of their personal and family ambitions. For neither man is the death of class rhetoric a painful loss.

It long ago dawned on Tony Blair that Labour could never win a general election without a specific and consistent effort to reach out to "Middle England", to those conveniently if narrowly defined as readers of the Daily Mail. These people had to be wooed, flattered and above all reassured; their repugnance at Tory failure would not be enough by itself. This project Tony Blair has made his own. Having won the election, the need to keep this constituency on side has not diminished: it explains much of Mr Blair's body language and rhetorical flourishes and perhaps goes some way to exculpate him from the sin of sharing a far too narrow bed with Rupert Murdoch. The phrase is "giving cover". Tony Blair gives his Cabinet colleagues more political space than they would enjoy by themselves - not covertly to engage in acts of socialism but to get on with the task of capitalist management the Government has set itself. This is exactly what Gordon Brown has enjoyed, thanks to the Prime Minister. Whether the Blair analysis about Middie England is correct is debatable, especially in the light of recent poll evidence in favour of genuinely redistributionist tax policies. As a tactic however it makes a lot of sense. It may even suit this government's purposes to read a stream of stories about Blair-Brown splits - the good cop, bad cop routine gives them both room for manoeuvre. Which is the best reason why we should be suspicious of such stories. These two men may not love each other but as a political team they have lately been formidable.

Pray or pay at Abbey

WESTMINSTER Abbey is to charge visitors an admission fee of £5, but waive the fee for those who want to use the church for prayer. This raises the question of how the beadles at the West Door will perform the act of triage - distinguishing mere tourists from those with religious intent. And they must not let themselves be caught out by those arty types to whom gazing on Baroque sculpture or contemplating a soaring chancel equates to a spiritual experience.

Perhaps anyone in a leisure shirt or trainers gets shut out. But this runs against the Church of England's more relaxed and family-friendly ethos, which means that on a suburban Sunday worshippers are often more casually dressed than people in the street. Alternatively the door-keepers might look for signs of sanctity, an earnest desire for intercession or perhaps a protruding halo. Then again, everyone entering the hallowed portal might be forced to pay up and a refund be offered to those observed in prayerful attitude for a stipulated period of time. Perhaps the Dean could devise some sort of holy barometer and set it up in the Abbey rafters.

Alternatively Westminster Abbey, a national treasure, could be nationalised and, given a proper budget for repairs and maintenance, and could, in the spirit of the British Museum and National Gallery, charge



Fishermen hauling their nets in the Aegean sea off the Greek island of Lesbos

Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou A 9x12 print of this photograph can be ordered on 0171-293 2534

Safety of acupuncture

AS ONE who was present at the meeting on acupuncture that you reported on 17 March ("Doctors warn of injuries from acupuncture"), I can testify that the session on safety was the least satisfactory of the conference.

We had no context in which to judge the average of 10 adverse events reported annually from around the world. Did this make acupuncture safer than drug treatment? Most likely, according to Professor Ernst. UK, and how old were they? This wasn't known. Were doctors implicated in causing injury, as well as nonmedical practitioners? Yes, as a matter of record. Could we be sure that the complications reported stemmed from the acupuncture treatment? Not alavs. The evidence was too anecdo tal to be of much help to anybody.

More concrete were the indications of acupuncture's effectiveness in the treatment of pain, nausea and vomiting, and possibly stroke rehabilitation and other conditions. It was a pity your reporting presented a picture which could only put patients off. Also presented to us were the horrifying hospitalisation statistics as a result of conventional medical treatment. Since when has it been demanded of "cult therapies", as you describe one of the oldest of medical professions, that they alone must be free from all adverse effects?

In fact it was clear from Dr Rampes' presentation that the issues vere ones of training, for medics and non-medics alike, rather than danger from acupuncture as such. Your readers will want to know that these issues are being addressed, both by the British Medical Acapuncture Society and by this Board in conjunction with the British Acupuncture Council, who have had schemes of accreditation up and running for some time. There is no complacency, but there is a need for the sake of the patients to get the matter in perspective.

Earl BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY Chair, British Acupuncture Accreditation Board

YOU ARE right to regard alterna-

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

medicine is fine as long as it does no actual harm" (leading article, 17 March).

Even if an atternative practitioner is highly skilled, there is always How many incidents related to the a risk that the patient, with or without prompting by the practitioner. will avoid orthodox medicine altogether, which in some cases may be essential to their survival.

Alternative therapies can also cause harm in more subtle ways. They engender suspicion of orthoclaims about harmful side-effects and the ingestion of toxins. They introduce back into medicine concepts of magic and superstition from which doctors have freed themselves after centuries of effort. We should not let the placebo rule our health. Dr SIMON JONES London SW12

Waiting to die?

SHEILA HAYDEN'S letter (16 March) paints a picture of rheumyeyed elderly people sitting around waiting to die. But it doesn't have to be that way. Those of us who are in a position to help change the future of residential care should take steps now to ensure that care is driven by the needs and wishes of residents, rather than what is convenient for management and staff.

The Abbeyfield Society, a charity which runs more than 60 residential care homes, has conducted research to find out what residents actually want from providers of care and housing. The results make salutary reading. It is clear that, in general, respondents were happy with the quality of services received, but nevertheless there was plenty of evidence to suggest that minority preferences often go unacknowledged. We are now planning to implement appropriate change. Long life can be worth it, but only if care providers tive therapies with scepticism, but it give life value by paying careful at- were; there never was a unified

is not always true that "alternative" tention to the physical and mental "counter culture" lined up in dialecneeds of the individual. ANGELA WHITCHER Head of Public Affairs The Abbeyfield Society St Albans, Hertfordshire

> HOORAY for Sheila Hayden! I am a healthy (I think) 67-year-old and intend to live my life the way I want it -to enjoy all the "sinful" things which 'ARTHUR MARWICK make life more enjoyable - chocolate. fry-ups, salt, butter and so on. I hope The Open University I shall go out with a bang and not Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire is doing, in a home for the elderly. I hope that, if I do live long enough to find myself lingering on, legislation will have been passed that will allow me to end my own life legally.

MARGARET CHILD Bingley, West Yorkshire.

SHEILA HAYDEN is right. It's the quality of life that counts. And unlike many relatives, she is both compassionate and honest. A "sans everything" old age can be torture for relatives - although most are unwilling to admit it. I'm 76 and marginally "sans". I'm looking for a sions? Fed with the same food. nursing home which allows unlimited access to Greene King draught Abbot, "Veterano" brandy and Tbone steaks. Any offers? KEN CLARK

Radical Sixties

THE IMPORTANCE of the single year 1968 has always been greatly over-rated, compared with the truly significant social and cultural (though not political) transformation of the entire period 1958-1973 ("the long Sixties").

James Maycock's evocation of the Grosvenor Square demonstration of March 1968 ("Flower Powerdess", 17 March) performs a useful service in drawing attention to how ambivalent the utterances of leading rock singers

tical opposition to "bourgeois society". Maycock might also have mentioned the dogmatic tosh being spouted by Tariq Ali about capitalist crises and the imminence of revolution.

C'était magnifique, but it wasn't revolution. Meantime the true revolution - in living standards, values, relationships - was affecting everyone. The Sixties Research Group

No racist 'Merchant'

SHAKESPEARE was too wise to base The Merchant of Venice on blatant racial prejudice, rampant though it was in Tudor days (report, 14 March; letters, 16, 17 March).

Most of the unctuous and hypocritical Christians in the play come off rather badly and in Act III Shakespeare gives Shylock those lines that are the ultimate put-down of anti-Semitism: "Hath not a Jew eyes? Hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, pas-

As for Portia's overquoted "quality of mercy" speech, what of the shred of mercy shown to Shylock? The most dramatic utterance of the play must be Shylock's last words: "I pray you give me leave to go from hence/I am not well". BARRY HAISMAN iinsacre, North Yorkshire

Are we welcome?

IT IS good to learn (Letters, 14 March) that your hoped-for readership among the "young, professional, high-income, educated" includes the "young in spirit". Can those whose wealth is other than pecumiary also hope for a look-in? ANNSHEARER London NW3

[Yes. Rich in spirit welcome too.

Off the road

PICTURE OF THE DAY

I DID NOT recognise myself in 1 Nicholas Schoon's article "Why 'offroad' vehicles should get off my road and off my planet" (16 March).

I have a 4WD, which is 10 years

old. It is a good people-carrier, enjoyed as much by the grandchildren on the school run as more sedate folk on long higgage-laden journeys. It accommodates up to seven people, with easy access for a semi-cripple, and has the most comfortable driving position I have ever found. The view of the road makes for safer driving and passengers can enjoy looking (, over fledges and fences. As for being a gas-guzzler, our vehicle's fuel consumption compares favourably with most large family cars.

Living as we do in the depths of off Mr Schoon's planet. JOSEPH M RUTTER Shaftesbury, Dorset

THE UK has two areas where ORV ownership is concentrated: London, where Range Rovers and the like are only a rather pathetic statement of status, and Shetland, where they are used for their real purpose and form a vital piece of working equipment for shepherds, fishermen and crofters. STEPHEN HOWARTH

Shelton, Nottinghamshire

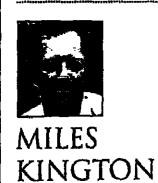
Spring in Japan

YOUR PICTURE for 1950 (The Eye, 16 March) shows the Return of Spring Festival of Saidai Temple, held on 3 February each year. The two batons, about a foot long, are thrown into the crowd at midnight. The man who succeeds in finding one in the mèlée attempts to conceal it, runs to a house marked by a white lantern and buries the baton in a container of uncooked rice that is waiting there. This confers good luck on the house and those that dwell there. The batons are returned to the temple and the find-

ers of the batons are rewarded. The photographer is presumably Tamotsu Yato, who illustrated a book on the so-called naked festivals of Japan.

ALAN FORGAN Guildford, Surrey

All your Budget questions answered — no matter how selfish or narrow-minded



JUST HOW will the Budget affect me? That is the question asked by people after every Budget, and a damned selfish, narrow-m generous question it is too, but that is neither here nor there, because today we have a panel of experts in this column to answer that very question, in other words: Just how will the Budget affect me? And our questions come from right across the social spectrum... Dear Panel of Experts, I wonder if you can help me? I am a typical Tory ex-minister who once had a secure job under the last government, helping to sell arms to the Middle East and toadying up to the Saudi Arabian government. However, my fortunes took a tumble when I withdrew a libel action against The Guardian, and recently I have been reduced to fending off possible arrest for perjury. My income has obviously taken a bit of a tumble in all this

debt problems, is there anything in the latest Budget which would help me?

Not really. Dear Panel of Experts, I wonder if you can help me? I am a middle-aged woman who would like to follow Gordon Brown's advice and get back to work. At present I am the companion to the Prince of Wales, who will be the next King of England, and this of course is pretty hard work in its own way as anyone who has been constant companion to the future King will testify, though only Mrs Wallis Simpson comes to mind as an example, which is perhaps not a cheering thought, but what I want to know is this: is there any succour in the recent Budget for those of us who have given up our lives to caring for and looking after middle-aged men who, through hoo-ha. What I want to know is this: if no fault of their own, are still not able to

things get any worse, and I get into bad take over the job for which they have been names and addresses of everyone I contrained since youth? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, I am the controller of a large radio network which recently decided to have a major facelift. In order to gauge the opinions of the listeners to our network, I travelled the length and breadth of Britain consulting with, talking to and even - when I had time - listening to what our listeners had to say. This of course involved an immense amount of travel, for which the money had to be found by shaving the budgets of other programmes, and I did all the travelling in an unmarked company car, no different from other cars except for a suggestion box clamped to the back. I cannot make out from the latest Budget whether I can claim for all this travel as a tax concession or a company allowance, and whether I have to submit the

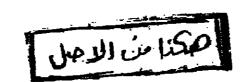
sulted, whereas it would be much easier to just put down: "Middle England". Can you advise me on this? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, I am a Newcastle United director who makes a living out of taking the punters for a ride. After the recent Budget, can I claim that ride as a legitimate travel expense? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, We are five girls who have recently made a fortune out of travelling the world as a group, making films and best-selling records, etc. However, this will not last for ever and one day we shall probably have to do some proper work, as it looks silly to go into retirement in your mid-twenties. The trouble is that we have received no training to do any proper work, and the only thing we can See you next Budget Day!

do really well is stand in a line, and locate the nearest microphone. Is there anything in the latest Budget which will help us retrain for real life and get back to the work which Mr Gordoz Brown so much wants everyone to embrace? Not really.

Dear Panel of Experts, Now that PEPs and TESSAs seem to be on the way out, I am told it is a good time to invest in new schemes such as ARFURs, PIP EMMAs and LAMONTs. But what are these? An ARFUR is an Automatic Ring-Fenced Unit Resource. A PIP EMMA is a Private Insurance Policy Endowment Medium Managed Amount A LAMONT is a Large Amount of Money Offloaded by the National Treasury. Dear Panel of Experts, Yes, but have you any idea what they all actually are? None at <u>all</u>



A true Budget for v

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Is being Foreign Secretary still the best job in the Cabinet?



RUPERT CORNWELL ON ROBIN COOK AT HAR HOMA

AH, the chauffeured limousines and government aircraft, and the round of international conferences. And what can match the exhilarating sense of escape from narrow domestic politics to the great stage beyond, help-ing Britain "punch above its weight" in world affairs? No wonder the Foreign Office is reckoned the best job in the Cabinet, short of being Prime Minister. But do not be deceived. Day in and day out, it is also the most punishing job in government, barring perhaps that of Prime Minister. The schedule is crammed. the paperwork is monstrous, and the travelling constant. And all the while, a Foreign Secretary becomes aware that his work is mostly conveyer belt stuff. He will leave no monument behind, no testament to those exhausting years of service.

Except for moments like Tuesday, and what will surely be contender for the news picture of 1998: Robin Cook, in the middle of a threeday, six-country swing through the Middle East clinging to his dignity by his fingernails as the rain lashed down on the heights of Har Homa, the hecklers heckled, and hard-faced Israeli security men twice his size helped him to the safety of his car. And to cap everything, cancellation of dinner with Benjamin Netanyahu (though whether Mr Netanyahu is a man you'd want as a dinner companion must be debatable - the things one has to do for Britain).

For all of this Mr Cook is being roasted. He is said to have single-handedly destroyed Europe's chances of mediating in the Middle East. He stands accused of that capital offence for a diplomat of "offending all sides at once". The words "fiasco" and "diplomatic disaster" are much bandied about. Once more we are reminded of Mr Cook's clumsy foray into the: Kashmir dispute which half-wrecked the Oueen's visit to the India and Pakistan last year. Then there was the brusque dismissal of his wife of 28 years, and the bizarre and demeaning trashing of his former diary secretary during a press conference in Brussels... And, last but not least, the contrast between between words and deeds in the conduct of New Labour's "ethical foreign policy", in Asia above all.

This time moreover, the Americans are huffing and puffing. State Department spokesmen murmur how Mr Cook's performance has "not helped" what is still referred to in polite circles as the "Middle East peace process". So much for Britain and the EU as honest broker. The day after Har Homa, his speech to the Anglo-Arab Association on 5 March has an almost comical ring. "Europe has an important part in the Middle East peace process ... Tonight I start an intensive European effort to stimulate progress ... We can give the process a helpful nudge." Some stimulation, some progress, some nudge. Clearly, it will be concluded, the man is a serial

blunderer, too convinced of his own intelligence to learn from his mistakes.

In fact, Tuesday's collision has been on the diplomatic railway tracks for weeks - certainly since Mr Cook' speech in London a fortnight ago setting out a new and expanded role for Europe in the search for peace in the Middle East. Last weekend, as Mr Netanyahu warned darkly of Europe not understanding the Middle East, his EU colleagues endorsed his idea and Mr Cook insisted he would go to Har Homa. As we all know, he did.

But the Foreign Secretary and the infinential pro-Arab lobby in the Foreign Office, the so-called "Camel Corps", are the lesser villains of the piece. Ultimately, blame for the mess lies with the Israelis; not so much the bigots who daub "Anti-Semite" on the walls of the British Consulate, but a right-wing goverument that insists on its right to build settlements as and when it pleases, and its spokesmen who liken Mr Cook's greeting of a Palestinian official in East Jerusalem to a foreign dignitary on a visit to Britain, travelling specially to Belfast to shake the hand of Gerry Adams. Except that the most powerful foreign dignitary of all, President Bill Clin-

ton, did precisely that in November 1995. No, the plain truth is that as long as Mr Netanyahu remains prime minister of Israel and pursues his current policies, neither Britain nor the European Union - regarded as incorrigibly pro-Palestinian - nor even the United States, have a hope of brokering a deal acceptable to both sides. Indeed, the Netanyahu snub may be taken as warning to the US of what might happen, should Washington press too hard on the settlements. If

Benjamin Netanyahu as dinner companion the things one must do

Mr Cook's "diplomatic disaster" has illuminated to the world just how inflexible Israel is, then so much the better.

The most serious consequence of the affair could be its impact on Mr Cook's political relationship with the Prime Minister. Next month Tony Blair visits Israel. Like Mr Cook he will be wearing a European as well as a British hat. Inevitably he will face the repercussions of this week's fracas. The word from Downing Street yesterday - and it could not be otherwise - was that the visit would be going ahead, and that Prime Minister backed his Foreign Secretary "totally". In fact, after its lonely support of American threats to use force against Israel's great foe Saddam Hnssein, Britain is in a stronger diplomatic position than might first appear.

But let us for a moment suppose differently. Suppose Mr Blair, who in foreign affairs seems happiest when dispensing inoffensive and feel good platitudes, has been thrown out of his stride by the unseemly episodes of the last 24 hours. Suppose too, as happened with Margaret Thatcher and Francis Pym and later on Geoffrey Howe, the Prime Minister starts to lose confidence in his Foreign Secretary. That is the moment at which the most punishing job in the Cabinet starts to become impossible. We have not reached that point yet. Despite much informed whispering to the contrary, Mr Cook swears he loves his job. But sometimes you sense his heart may not truly lie amid the splendours of King Charles Street. This week's scenes in Jerusalem might hasten the moment of his leaving them.

In love with the telephonic darling who monitors and screens my messages

John Walsh's sensitive verbal disposition has taken several hits this week, from BT operators to new . American slang

MY BRITISH Telecom lady has lost the plot. The supercalm voice on my phone, the one that monitors my messages and screens me from the outside world, has completely mislaid the storyline.

You know the person I mean? Maybe she turns up on your telephone too, the faithless hussy. I've considered her a close personal friend since I agreed to have the system installed, some months ago. I was entranced the first time I rang home and heard those primary-schoolmistress tones say, prissily: "Good evening. This is a Bee Tee answering service. There's no one here to take your call - but I can take a message for you ..." Her voice was so emphatic, her enunciation so clear, she sounded like Shula in The Archers addressing a shed of Albanian peasants.

It used to work like this. If callers had left messages, the phone would ring, or the dialling tone would bleep, to let you know. Then you rang 1571 to get your calls, and heard this tightly-buttoned BT minx (I imagined a Chanel suit, a Kirsty Young bairstyle, a whiff of Trésor) offering you a range of exciting transcommunicatory possibilities. "Four messages. Hear them?," she'd ask in imperious tones. "Message timed at 6.45pm today. Hear that message? Repeat that message? Save that message?"

You were expected to answer all her enquiries by saying "Yes" or "No" down the line, and woe betide you if you mumbled. She would come on the line, say, "Sorry, I didn't understand that" and make you repeat what you'd said, cooing sweetly the while, rephrasing her instructions with increasing simplicity ("Would you like to save or remove that message?") in case you might be drunk or foreign. She taught you to mind your dictional Ps and Qs, to be decisive and forthright, to sit up straight and stop fidgeting.

Then she went off me, grew cold and irritable, had attacks of PMT. Instead of the phone ringing to say there were messages waiting, a moody silence prevailed. The dialling



cerned. If you rang 1571, you'd get half of one message, aborted at random. Things went downhill fast. The voice I'd come to love hardened in tone, from Shula Archer to Ann Widdecombe. If she asked, "Remove that message?" it now sounded like an order. If you replied "No", she'd remove it anyway. Whatever you wanted, she'd do the opposite. You'd think we'd had a flaming row about housework or something.

Then she affected to be deaf. Whatever you said, there'd be an eerie silence and she'd reply, sulkily, "I didn't understand that". Even if you enunciated your words like John Gielgud, she'd say, snottily, "I didn't understand that. Would you like to hear this message?". Yes, you'd snari, yes, yes, Goddammit. "Sorry. I didn't UNDER-STAND that," she snarled back, suddenly standing revealed as Alex Forrest, the madwoman in Fatal Attraction. "DO YOU WISH TO HEAR THIS MESSAGE OR NOT?" Ten minutes later, her voice was breaking up and I was shouting abuse at a

It couldn't go on. I had to get a BT man to take her away to the Answering Machine Funny Farm and have her attitude problem seen to. Uncomfortable thoughts of The Stepford Wives assail me day

ly want the tax inspectors to

know the answer to these ques-

tions? You only have to look at

Child Support Agency to realise

how disastrous it can be when

officials start to probe into the

details of people's personal

questions about Mr Brown's in-

tentions towards women. Does

he care about the distribution

of income within families as well

value unpaid work in the home

These points raise broader

the troubled history of the

when the robotised Paula Prentiss gets knifed in the circuit boards and goes bananas. My telephonic darling is now back on the phone line, working perfectly, cooing helpfully and recording my messages as if nothing had happened. But what flash of humanity was revealed when her circuits crashed? And how can I stop this feeling of guilt that I've had her turned into a robot

AFTER inarticulate grunts, professional slang is perhaps the biggest irritant to the soul. After years spent wincing every time I heard voices on the radio discussing "Peps" and "Tessas", I learn we now have to discuss the pros and cons of things called "ISAs", which have replaced them. (""Doctor, I'm a bit worried about me icers ..."). Being asked about "cashback" at the Safeway checkout, as if it naturally to your lips, is enough to turn you into Paul Johnson. Carpet fitters who decide they can't nail down the Axminster round the edge of the room, say "I think we'll 'ave to PV5 it". Give me strength. But some bits of newly minted slang are oddly appealing. Like the moment in a West End Seattle Coffee emporium during the week, when the woman beside me ordered a large espresso to take away. Without looking up, the and night, especially the scene (American) girl behind the

counter yelled over her shoulder, "Double E to fice ..."

CONVERSATION of the

Week was surely that between

Kathleen Willey, the former

White House worker, and Ed Bradley, the interrogator on CBS television's 60 Minutes. about yet another of President Clinton's alleged peccadillos. lt wasn't just for what Ms Willey said, though God knows that was interesting enough, but for what she didn't say. Let me remind you: "He had his arms tight round me. He kissed me on my mouth and pulled me closer to him ... He touched my breasts with his bands and I was just startled." Indeed you were, madam. So far, so good. Then Bradley asks, Where, er, exactly, did he, ah ...? and Ms Willey replies that the wandering Presidential hand had seized her hand and clamped it on his (by now surely rather terns and researchers) groin. "Was he aroused?" inquired Bradley, "Uh-ha," replied Ms Willey.

And that was the end of the conversation. No really, that's actually how it finished, with Ms Willey's pitiless interviewer presumably quite satisfied with her reply. We in Britain, however, are not. Did she, for Chrissake, mean Yes or No? (She wouldn't have lasted five minutes with the lady from the BT answering service.) Are we to be denied the truth of whether the priapic Prez clutched another Willey to his own, all because of that curious American fondness for non-verbal in-

terchanges? You know the kind of thing. If you say "thanks" to a New York waitress, she'll murmur "Mm-hm?" abstractedly on a rising lift. Ask a garagehand in Denver if he can check your oil and he'll say, "Uh-hunh" (meaning "I would love to be of assistance, but sadly I have an appointment with my advanced cello (cacher"). Say anything disobliging to a small American child and it'll protest with that awful whinging noise, "Ne-hahr".

It's not a pretty record of inarticulacy, with the language of explanation, gratitude and protest all reduced to primeval of a piece with President Clinton, and his apparently Tourette-like manhandling of anyone in possession of a uterus - I mean anyme. White House job applicant, beauty queen, night-club singer. friend's wife, stenographer. colour co-ordinator, office cleaner, tea lady - who has ever strayed into his Fondle

A true Budget for women would be much more radical



COYLE THE VALUE OF UNPAID WORK

all-male team of advisers at the Treasury come up trumps with his Budget for women? Not really, despite the increase in child benefit and the new work and childcare credits for the low

The Budget did mark, as Harriet Harman emphasised in a speech last night, the end of the assumption that families consist of a male breadwinner and a female helpmate in the home. The welfare state has been built on this tradition of unpaid female labour, whereas the new measures recognise that very many women are in paid work and need help with childcare.

There was other good news in the Chancellor's speech too. Apart from the large financial gains for children, we females of the species must breathe a sigh of relief that two potential catastrophes, which would have cost women billions of pounds, have been averted, at least for now. After a huge amount of lobbying and ear-bending, the Chancellor accepted that the new Working Families Tax Credit must guard against switching money within households from men to women.

Yet the fact that both these financial disasters looked at one stage as though they might happen demonstrates how important it is to keep the Boy's Own Treasury on its guard. The lads simply do not have the gender impact of their proposals at the forefront of their minds.

Take the narrow escape children, so why should non-

HAVE Gordon Brown and his from a men-to-women redistribution in the new Working Families Tax Credit, the replacement for Family Credit. The initial plans would have involved a "purse to wallet" transfer of up to £40 a week. Family Credit is paid direct to mothers whether they are the main earner or not. The new tax cred-. it will go through the pay packet as a tax refund, and could have ended up going to men in many of the cases where it is claimed by couples rather than lone parents. When it is introduced, couples will be able to nominate which of them should receive the money; but campaigners are still concerned about whether the practical

> choice in practice. The other big threat to purses is one that might loom again in a future Budget. That is a return to joint taxation. Although Mr Brown says he does not plan to abandon the independent taxation of husbands and wives, a reform introduced by Nigel Lawson, the question will inevitably arise when he gets around to taxing child benefit - an intention he signalled

details will make this a genuine

On the face of it, it is entirely unobjectionable to guarantee that child benefit will remain universal but tax it for high carners. And when you accept that, it seems to make sense to take into account the joint family income for tax purposes - after all, both incomes go to support the

earning wives of rich men get a just a good friend. Do we realhigher level of child benefit than the low-earning wife of a middle-income man?

The trouble with this reasonable view, which the Chancellor certainly holds, is that defending the principle of independent taxation is absolutely crucial to women. Any retreat from it will introduce a big tax rise - for women. At the extreme, a reversion to joint taxation would be equivalent to a 6 pence increase in the basic rate of income tax for working as between them? And does he

> The Boy's Own Treasury simply does not have the gender impact of its proposals at the front of its mind

income tax is assessed on both starts to pay income tax on her first pound - and at the higher rate if her husband is in the 40 per cent tax band. If she is taxed separately, she gets her own personal allowance so the first slice of income is tax free.

And quite apart from the money, there are other problems. What would the position of cohabiting couples be? The Inland Revenue knows if you are married. It does not know whether you live with someone - or, if you do, whether they are the father of your children or

The explanation is simple. If as much as paid work outside it? The answer to both appears incomes, the second earner to be no, whereas for women it needs to be yes. The first yes is why independent taxation matters, and the second explains why it is important for benefits to be paid to the woman of the house rather than the man.

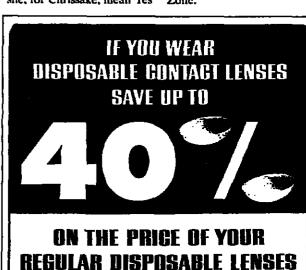
A true Budget for women would accept that there has to be some unfairness between households in order for there to be fairness within them. The Chancellor has to forget about taxing wives for having well-off husbands.

Any genuine reform of the tax and benefits system would acknowledge the value of unpaid domestic work. Although, as Ms Harman acknowledged, the traditional family of male earner and female housekeeper is a thing of the past, that unpaid work still needs to be done and be valued. After all, domestic effort amounts to at least half of total measured national income on the most cautious official estimate and more likely matches the money economy in size. Women do twice as much of this unpaid work as men - an average of nearly 300 minutes a day versus men's 150 minutes. But although we must wholeheartedly welcome the extra money he found to give to mothers and carers, by incentives to work Mr Brown means incentives for paid work.

My proposal for a Budget for Women would be higher taxes on rich men to pay for a far bigger increase in resources for childcare both in and out of the home. While generous child benefit is a lot tamer than the old feminist demand of wages for housework, it is better than peanuts for house-

A rise in the top rate of income tax would have the perfect gender profile. Sadly, some redistributive measures have been struck off the agenda, even for a Labour Chancellor who has turned out, against the odds, to be willing to take money from the rich and give it to the poor. Taking it from men to give to women is obvi-

ously a bit too radical.



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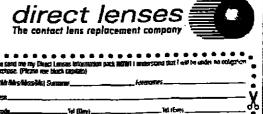
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the world's oldest working potters, has died at the age of 105. In all aspects of her life Wood was equally capable of shocking by either her outrageous remarks, her life style, or her choice of lovers and friends.

A recent photograph of her at work on the potter's wheel captures her in typical pose. adorned in a turquoise blue, loosely fitting sari, a huge silver necklace, large carrings and neatly applied lipstick. Few potters wear such exotic costume for such an earthy task. The title of her 1985 autobiography, I Shock Myself, suggests nonconformity in her life and art. an approach borne out by her remark that she owed her longevity to "chocolates and young men".

Born in San Francisco and brought up in New York, she alarmed her wealthy parents by her early concern with art and an offbeat life. Aged 18 she escaped to Paris to study at the Académie Julien and later to perform at the Comédie Française, making friends with many avant-garde artists. Back in New York she maintained contact with European artists including Francis Picabia and Man Ray, with American new wave artists such as Charles Sheeler, and the film star Myrna Loy.

Her closest companion was Marcel Duchamp, and, along with him and the diplomat and

BEATRICE WOOD, one of writer Henri-Pierre Roché, she founded and wrote for Blind Man, a journal which supported the Dada movement in New York. Encouraged by Duchamp, who was reputed to be her lover - a fact she neither verified or disputed - Wood took up drawing. Often known as the "mama of dada", she was also thought to be part of a ménage à trois with Duchamp and Roché, later inspiring François Truffaut's 1961 film Jules et Jim.

In response to family pres-

sure Wood married her first husband, a theatre manager from Montreal, in 1919, but the marriage was declared void when it was discovered that he already had a wife living in Belgium. Her second marriage, in 1938, to Steve Hogg, an engineer, was one of convenience in that it allowed them to apply for Red Cross funding when the house they had bought together in North Hollywood was washed away in a flood. Although they lived together until his death in 1960, Wood claimed the marriage was unconsummated, saying that she had loved seven men she didn't marry, and married two men she didn't love. It was not until the late

1920s that Wood took up ceramics, spurred on by failing to find a teapot to match some neo-rococo lustre-glazed plates. Following a course at Hollywood High School she began to research into lustre glaze tech- and materials, often shocking



Wood: the 'mama of dada', she described herself as a 'terrible craftsw

niques, a highly skilled process which was to remain a major characteristic of her ceramics.

In fact, she did not make teapots at this time, but freely modelled figurines which sold well and helped her survive the Depression. Her deepest involvement with ceramics came in the early 1940s when she studied with Glen Lukens and the Austrian ceramists Gertrude and Otto Natzler.

Working from a small studio in Ojai, California, she had an idiosyncratic approach to form

vessel-based forms and sculpthe generally conservative world tural ceramics which is her greatof ceramics by her sense of experiment and innovation. est strength and fascination.

She was never impressed by notions of perfectionism, arguing that "knowing what one's about to take out of a kiln is as exciting as being married to a boring and predictable man", and she freely admitted to being a "terrible craftswoman". Her chalices, bowls and vases, some with stylised figurative drawings, were not intended to

be used, but to be beautiful in

their own right. But it is this

sense of individual vision of her Theosophist movement, and in

creating objects today which would enhance your life". There was also a quieter, less flamboyant aspect to Wood's character. A vegetarian who neither smoked nor drank, in 1913

she became a member of the

Forty Years On; Daddy Warboys

in Annie: and a favourite, his

namesake David King in

Some, such as the ceramic

sculptor Peter Voulkos, re-

sponded positively, seeing her

ceramics as valid, unique and

radical. Ansīs Nin described

Wood as "a modern ceramist

Photograph: Garth Clark Gallery

1948 she moved to Ojai to be near the charismatic Indian sage Krishnamurti.

Public recognition, though late in her life, was fulsome, culminating in a show at the American Craft Museum in New York in the 1990s. In 1994 Pete Wilson, Governor of California, declared Beatrice Wood a "California Living Treasure".

Emmanuel Cooper Beatrice Wood, patter: born San Francisco 3 March 1893; married secandly 1938 Steve Hagg (died 1960);

died Ojai, California 12 March 1998.

years he found new directions,

and turned out some strong per-

formances in fringe theatre and

in frequent broadcasting for

the BBC Drama Repertory

Company. One of his poems, "I

children's anthology favourite.

When he died he was re-

James Smeall

JAMES SMEALL was Princi- to universities, namely a compal of Saint Luke's Coilege of mon focus uniting all its mem-Education, Exeter, from 1945 to bers. When student dissidence 1972. Led by his shrewdness and panache, the college grew tenfold in numbers, and rose to of principle: "The college national and then international renown as a nursery of teachers and rugby players. He was to the children whom the stualso a prominent figure in the civic life of Exeter and its teach." co-opted Mayor in 1965-66.

Son of a Yorkshire doctor. School to Queens', Cambridge. where a First in English still left him time to appear as wing three-quarter for the university. After "finishing" at the Sorbonne, he went into schoolteaching, and in 1939, at the age of 32, was appointed headmaster of Chesterfield Grammar School. By 1945, however, he was looking for a new challenge.

Saint Luke's was the diocesan teacher training college in Exeter. Though small, it did not lack distinction. But in 1942 it had been bombed into total closure, and in 1945 many of its buildings were still rubble.

For rebuilding and recreating the college, Smeall adopted a time-honoured English ploy, seeking academic repute through manly sports, especially rugby. His scouts went round the schools to recruit good players. He himself refereed and coached. Success



Smeall: showmanship

bred success, until in 1953-54 the first XV scored a record 1,000 points in a season. Altogether in his time the college produced 36 rugby internationals.

time of growth. New staff were appointed: Smeall chose well, and then let them get on with it. The students got good jobs, and many rose to headships. The staff were invited all over not on education, which bored him, but on 18th-century English poetry and (surprisingly)

dockyards. Saint Luke's in fact was on the crest of a wave, and knew it. A college of education

threatened in the late 1960s. Smeall made a rare declaration does not belong either to its staff or to its students. It belongs dents are being prepared to nund soar me-year h

But what gave Saint Luke's the edge over its rivals was its Smeall went from Highgate style, Smeall's style. Among his staff appointments was the former MP Sir Richard Acland, whose family had given Killer & ton House to the National Trust. Smeall rented it back from the trust as a half of residence, with Acland as its Warden. And, when the comedian Jimmy Edwards was playing in Exeter, Smeall invited him to speak to the students, had him elected to the non-existent office of Rector, and proceeded, in the exchange of compliments, to outwit the

professional.

For, as befitted the author of English Satire, Parody and Burlesque (1952), he was a master of all forms of wit and humour. Alas, only a few of his mots are printable. (in notes on the staff) left for his successor, he praised one colleague for his "impeccable taste in enemies".) Speaking on an official occasion as Mayor, he likened the new extension of a high-street bank to "an ancient Egyptian urinal". Reacting in 1968 to government pressure to admit women, he reported to his governors in revealing words: "I hope we shall be saved from sleazy touchline banshees, wrapped up in scarves and apparently ignorant of make-up." But when they came be welcomed them, for he was kind beneath the satire, just as he was shy behind the showmanship.

He also bowed to the in-evitable. When "his" college: was incorporated into Exeter University in 1978, he was consoled for the loss of its independence by the growing distinction of its new owners, and delighted by the award of an honorary degree in 1988. To a letter of congratulation then he replied typically: "I wel-In other ways too it was a come any recognition that I am still alive."

The markets are to

• ; •

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James Leathley Smeall, teachethe world to lecture and advise. ter. Merchiston 1929-30: stoff. Gallery, and he was about to Smeall himself lectured more Royal Naval College, Dartmouth take part in a recording of than once in Russia, typically 1930-34; Housemoster, Brodfield College 1934-36; Head of the English Department, Epsom College St Luke's College, Exeter 1945-72; married 1936 Rachel Harris (died

David King

DAVID KING was a big ebullient man, an actor who played character parts, making his mark quickly in every role and with a dominating stage presence. He was moreover extremely versatile; one night he could be playing a haggard trump - with his dog Dougal in Z Cars. and the next a robust country squire in Trollope. In 1996 he appeared in a fine scene with Sir John Gielgud in the acclaimed film Shine.

Perhaps "Badger" in 13 memorable West End productions of Toad of Toad Hall from the mid-Sixties, was his triumph. Badgers became a fascination: his Barnsbury house was filled with pictures, books, ornaments and memorabilia, and on the hall wall was a photograph of himself making up for the part.

larger, white encircled . . . / And there, powerful, mysterious, / The complete mask, / Badger," He may have goined a taste

"Last of all, the eyes / Made

Versatile: King, right, with John Gielgud in Shine, 1996

r performing when, as a small der Boris Ord, and began boy, he impersonated Carmen seriously, playing Othello. His the dog". A glossy black charmer, Miranda on his parents' kitchen career took off quickly. In the Dougal played alongside his table. Later, as a plump, lone- early 1950s came seasons at

became all-absorbing. At Cambridge he read English under F.L. Lucas and by a stint at Bristol Old Vic play-George Rylands, and Music un- ing Pozzo in Waiting For Godot

and Laurence Olivier, followed

Hamlet. Seasons at the Old Vic in

and Claudius to Peter O'Toole's

London led to a Russian tour in 1961. King taught himself Russian in advance, and when, in 1987, he and I presented Agreeable Friends, an anthology of animal writing, he spoke movingly Esyenin's "To Jim: an actor's dog" to his own dog, Brock, on stage. Dougal was his first dog,

brought in to the Haymarket Theatre one day in the mid-Sixties while King was playing in The Rivals, often covering for Ralph Richardson as Sir Anthony Absolute. Dougal and King became inseparable, and master's pantomime dame, in A ly schoolboy, his toy theatre Stratford-upon-Avon with Peg- Midsummer Night's Dream, and gy Ashcroft, Michael Redgrave on television in Jackanory.

Among King's most impressive roles were his immense - in every sense - drag act, offer devotion at a time when

Dame Clara; bis virtuoso playthe profession treated his master less kindly. ing of the Peggy Mount role in David King was a vulnerable, Sailor Beware (directed as an allsensitive man beneath his big, male army show); Sir in The Dresser, the Headmaster in outgoing exterior. In recent

Christopher Fry's A Sleep of Prisoners. In the early 1980s, he performed in A Patriot For Me, Hate Greens, has become a which progressed from Chichester to London to Los Angeles, this last an experience he utterly loathed, venting his wrath in poetry and a vitriolic journal. Numerous television appearances ranged from the classics to soaps, including the

Emergency Ward 10. After Dougal died, Brick was rescued from the Animal Welfare Trust. Less manageable, smellier, a large, bounding, loveable mongrel, he too was a theatre dog, family, someone to

consultant surgeon Mr Bailey in

searching the life of Arthur Conan Doyle to follow his popular portrayals of Henry VIII, Handel, Gladstone and Chesterton at the National Portrait Coriolanus for Riverrun Productions - a recording now dedicated to his memory.

David King, actor and poet: born Rochester, Kent 23 August 1930; died London 3 March 1998.

trainer: born Middlesbrough, Cleveland 16 June 1907; assistant mas-1936-39; Headmaster, Chesterfield Grammar School 1939-45; Principal, 1984; one daughter); died Exeter, always had one strength denied Devon 24 February 1998.

Red Richards

"A FINE pinnist with a mar- was thrust upon him, yet he was vellous, loose, swinging style." The clarinettist Bob Wilber was in no doubt, when he formed his own band in 1950, that he wanted Red Richards on piano. "He was very doubtful and said that he didn't know anything about Dixieland jazz. I told him that I'd teach him the tunes and that all he had to do was play his own way."

Such reticence was typical of Richards. What fame he had

one of the most continuously busy of jazz musicians, playing and leading many bands and, incongruously, touring in 1953 as accompanist to Frank Sinatra.

He began learning to play classical piano when he was 10: When I was about 16 a fellow in my block started taking me to rent partics every Saturday night. Sometimes there might be four different parties in the same building that had piano players. That was how I came to meet Fats Waller, James P. Johnson, Don

Lambert and Willie "The Lion" Strith. The parties were always going on, and those guys would play for without stopping!

It was when he joined the band of the alto sexophonist Tab Smith in January 1945 that Richards began to attract notice. Smith's band was in partnership with the guitarist Trevor Bacon. They played for 10 weeks in Chicago before setting out for California via a tour of the South. Two weeks into the tour

dent and the rest abandoned the trip. Coincidentally the Savoy Baliroom, New York's legendary "home of happy feet", needed a small band to support the resident Savoy Sultans, and Smith's group was given the job. They stayed for five years.

Richards left for Boston to join Wilber and Sidney Bechet and then came to Europe with Mezz Mezzrow's band in 1953. This was the beginning of a long

Bacon was killed in a car acci- series of European visits that continued until his death. The trumpeter Buck Clayton was in Mezzrow's band and his friendship with Richards lasted until Richards played on Clayton's last recording in 1979.

Another long friendship was with the trombonist Vic Dickenson. From 1960 to 1970 the two led a very successful sextet called the Saints and Sinners. In 1975 Dickenson joined the resident band at Eddie Condon's

in New York and Richards became the intermission pianist. From 1979 Richards toured Europe, Asia and Australia with the Harlem Jazz and Blues Band and with the reassembled Savoy Sultans. In 1994 he visited Europe with the trumpeter Doc Cheatham and played and recorded with the Red Richards/ George Kelly Sextet.

Richards was a sensitive accompanist and a soloist with a very individual style. He had an

encyclopaedic grasp of the history of jazz piano, and this, coupled to a rolling left hand, enabled him to take his place firmly in the tradition of Fats Waller and James P. Johnson. He died at the piano in the middle of a job.

Steve Voce

Charles Coleridge "Red" Richards, pianist and bandleader: born New York 19 October 1912; died New York 12 March 1998.



Richards: rolling left hand Photograph: Jazz Index

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

DEATHS

at Princess Alace Hospice, Esher, Cre-mation at Mortlake, Wednesday 25 March of 2pm. No flowers: any donations to cancer research.

MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Marro-Adoptions, Harriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Hemorism) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independenc, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 9771-293 2011 or faxed to 9171-293 2010, and are charged at 64.50 a line (VAT extra). ore charged at these time (OTHER Garacte amountements must be submitted in writing (or fated) and are charged at 0.0 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a day-sine velechone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

PROFIAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen, Freeman of the Diapers' Company, attract, a linch at the Harpers' Company, Loudon 1 C2. The Propen of Whiles undertakes engagements in Married, the Harpers' branches, the Harpers's Iruse, ottends the Hills promitive of The Married in the Form Mark at the Orders, Leocater Segure, Loudon Will. The Dude of York, President, presents the Royal Acru Club Ammul Awards at the Novel and Milleary Cody, Peccalies, London Will The Princess Royal persons the London Only Charles (Daylor Challe Charley Challes).

nging of the Guard

Birthdays

diss Ursula Andress, actress, 62; Miss Glenn Close, actress, 51; Mr Peter Cotes, theatrical director and roducer, 86: Professor Rouald Girdproducer, 86: Professor Rotald Gre-wood, former President, Royal Col-lege of Physicians of Edinburgh, 81; The Right Rev Ronald Gordon, for-mer Bishop of Lambeth, 71; Mr Bryan Hildrew, former managing di-rector, Lloyd's Register of Shipping. 78: Vice Admiral Sir Norman King, former chairman, Bucks Health An thority, 65; Sir David Lumsden, former Principal, Royal Academy of Music, 70; Sir Peter Masefield, aviation authority, 84; Mr Philip Mason, writer, 92: Lord Plant of Highfield

laster, St Catherine's College, Ox-

ord. 53; Lt-Gen Sir Alan Reay.

Chief Honorary Steward, Westin

ster Abbey. 73; Mr Philip Roth, newelist, 65; Mr Bruce Willis, actor, 43; Miss Mary Wimbush, actress, 74; Mr William Winfield, Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 51.

Anniversari**e**s Births: Georges de la Tour, painter, 1593: Tobias George Smollett, physi-cian and writer, 1721; Dr David Livingstone, explorer and missionary, 1813; Sir Richard Francis Burton, scholar and explorer, 1821; Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev, founder of the Diaghilev ballet company, 1872. Deaths: Thomas Killigrew, play-wright, 1683; René Robert Cavelier. Sieur de la Salle, explorer, murdered by his own men in Texas 1687; William Henry Playfair, architect, 1857; George Richmond, painter, 1896; Edgar Rice Burroughs, novel-

ist and creator of "Tarzan", 1950. On this day, the Rev John White formed the New England Company in Mass-achusetts Bay, 1628; Sydney Harbour bridge was officially opened, 1932; following an internal dispute, British parachute troops took over the Caribbean island of Anguilla, 1969; during a severe gale, the 1,260tt tele-vision mast at Emley Moor, Yorkvision mast at remey record, 1970, Today is the Fezzi Day of St Al-canund, prince of Northumbria, St John of Panace, St Joseph (husband of the Virgin) and St Landoald.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Mothers (iii): Mazo, Queen Mariana of Spain in Mourning", Ipm. Tate Gallery: Stuart Curne, "Pinning Down Personal Experience: Giacometti, Bacon and Dubuffet",

National Portrait Gallery: Jacob Simon. The Art of the Picture Frame (iii): the 19th century 1.10pm.

Wallace Collection, London Wi:
Guy Evans, Textiles in the Wallace

Collection's Paintings", 1pm. School of Oriental and African Studies, London WC1: Professor James Read, "Law in Africa: back to the future?", 5.30pm. Royat Society (Medawar Lecture), London SW1: Professor Lewis

Wolpert, "Is Science Dangerous?". London W1: Professor Ian Felis, "Energy, the Environment and You".

LAW REPORT: 19 MARCH 1998

Unregistered architect could not use 'FRIBA'

and Mr Justice Gage) 6 March 1998

The use of the initials "FRIBA" in a business letter by a person who was no longer registered as an architect and was offering his services as an arbitrator constituted an offence under the Architects Registration Act

The Divisional Court allowed an appeal by the prosecutor by decision of Woolwich Crown Court, which had allowed Ronald Baden Hellard's appeal against his conviction at of an offence contrary to sections I and 3 of the Architects

Registration Act 1938. The offence charged the respondent with carrying on business under the style or title of architect whilst not registered

Jones v Hellard; Queen's Bench under the 1938 Act, in that he Divisional Court (Lord Justice Pill had used the intials "FRIBA" in a letter and an enclosure

Elizabeth Appelby QC and Timothy Dutton (Wright Son & Pepper) for the appellant, Jonathan Marks OC (Shadbolt & Co, Reigne) for the respondent. Lord Justice Pill said that it

was not in dispute that the respondent had received a telephone request from a Miss Sahirad to act as arbitrator in way of case stated against the a dispute between the company of which she was a director and another firm about alteration works at premises in Wanstead. He had replied by Greenwich Magistrates' Court letter on notepaper which was headed "Polycon Aims Ltd -Adjudication and Arbitration" and had signed the letter with

his name followed by "DipArch FRIBA FIMgt FCIAtb".

for the purposes of section 1 of the Architects Registration Act 1938, though he had been registered for many years, nor was he any longer a Fellow of the in holding that by placing his Royal Institute of British Architects (FRIBA). At all times respondent to be registered as an architect, and when she

discovered that he was not.

she had complained to the Architects Registration Board peal were whether the respondent's name followed by carrying on a business; whether the use of the initials FRIBA required a finding that it was a name, style or title contain-

son registered" as an architect practised or carried on by the would involve reading into respondent was a "business" within the meaning of section 1 of the 1938 Act. The court had no difficulty

name and qualifications beneath his signature on the let-Miss Sahirad had believed the ter, the respondent was a person practising or carrying on business under that name, style or title within the meaning of section 1(1). Moreover it was The issues arising on the apsought and it was those services which he was offering. In the his qualifications under the circumstances, he could not essignature to the letter came cape liability on the ground that within the words "name, style it was the limited company and or title" under which he was not the respondent which was

carrying on the business. The words "practice" and "business" could not be limit-At the material time the reing the word "architect"; and or in the business of architeced to practice as an architect spondent was no longer a "per- whether the business being mre. Such an interpretation

section 1(1) words which were not there. As a matter of construction, there was no justification for doing that, and no policy reason which required the section to be limited in that way. Even if a limited construction were to be given to the section. it should in any event be sufficiently wide to cover practice or business as an arbitrator in a building dispute. Expertise in his personal services as an ar- architecture was plainly a qualification for the appointment.

The acronym FRIBA did contain the word "architect"; it had no meaning except to denote several words, one of which was "architect". That construction avoided the absurdity of it being an offence to include as part of a title "Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects" and not an offence to use "FRIBA". Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

حكنا من الاحل

23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MALL: INDYBUSINESS@INDEPENDENT.CO.UK FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Pound soars to nine-year high on rate fears

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

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Company State

THE POUND leapt to a nineyear high on the foreign ex-policy as the toughest since 1981. changes yesterday as the Gordon Brown's Budget made

The stock market surged to investors gave the Budget the "thumbs up". The FTSE 100 : closed at an all-time high of 5,903.6, up 68.7 points, as sentiment was boosted by a combination of positive economic data.

The reaction in the currency markets, which took sterling two pfennigs higher to above 3.05 German marks and left exporters appalled, ignored figures which showed a dip in retail sales rencies leapt by 0.7 to 107.5, the last month and average earnings rising by less than expected.

markets a little by pointing out that his two Budgets would take £17bn out of the economy over two years. "I don't think anyone can say it is anything other than a prudent stance," he said.

Mr Brown said the outline arithmetic for the Budget had been made available to the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) when it met in March, and opted to leave interest rates unchanged

at 7.25 per cent. ! It is no secret that Treasury officials would have preferred the Bank to raise rates enough to be able to signal that they had - probably reached a peak. They believe it is the possibility of another increase in the cost of raise rates, with the published borrowing that is fuelling spec- minutes showing the vote di-

The markets' verdict since labour's victory

Budget measures were broadly neutral. In a post-Budget circular Goldman Sachs described

Robert Barrie at CSFB said: financial markets concluded that "The neutral Budget leaves fiscal policy tight and the public higher interest rates a sure bet. finances in good shape."

However, Michael Saunders claim a clutch of new records as at Salomon Smith Barney said: "There was more tightening than expected in the 1997/98 fiscal year but there will be less in 1998/99," The squeeze was easing, he said.

> Either way, the widespread view that it is now up to the Bank of England to slow down the economy left sterling looking irresistible to dealers. Its index against a range of curhighest since the end of 1988.

Roger Bootle, chief econo-The Chancellor calmed the mist at HSBC Markets, said: "Our export business is, I think, in danger of being devastated by a pound this high. It is ludicrously overvalued."

Michael Robson, president of the UK Steel Association and commercial director of British Steel, warned, in a radio interview: "It takes you years to get export business, and you can lose that business in two or three

He added: "This involves a progressive and significant loss of jobs, both inside the steel industry and, I believe, also inside UK manufacturing."

The MPC is due to meet on 9 April. It has been split since January over whether or not to

ready tight, even though the casting vote to leave interest rates unchanged.

Ironically, new figures yesterday tended to support the doves. The number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 13,700 in February to the lowest since July 1980. Although it was the 24th consecutive fall, the pace of decline has clearly

slowed in the past three months. In addition, the underlying growth of average earnings in the year to January was lower than expected at 4.5 per cent, the same as December. An initial estimate showing an increase in November and December was revised down.

The Office for National Statistics said the actual difference was exaggerated by rounding, and earnings growth had been stable for four months. Hawkish economists argue that pay deals, especially in the private sector, are as high as they can be if the Bank is to meet the inflation target.

Mr Brown warned yesterday of the need for moderation in pay deals. He said: "The performance of the economy this year and next will to a large extent depend on how people who bargain on wages respond."

Additional reassurance that the economy might be slowing as needed to keep inflation on track came from separate figures showing a 1.2 per cent fall in the volume of retail sales last month.

But this followed a surge in January, thanks to price discounting in the new year sales. The underlying trend has changed little, with sales up 5.5 ulation in the currency markets. vided four-four in February. per cent in the latest three Many City economists agreed Eddie George, the Governor of months compared with a year rising to £25m the year after.



High stakes: The casino industry is reeling from the news that it faces an extra tax bill of £20m. London gaming clubs will be particularly affected

Casino groups' shares tumble over tax hike

By Andrew Yates

SHARES in casino groups tumbled yesterday as the market digested the shock decision by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, to increase gaming duty in the Budget.

Shares in London Chubs fell 35p to 232.5p and Capital Corporation slumped 15p to 126p. Both companies will be particularly badly affected by the tax hike due to their strong presence in the London casino market which will bear the brunt of the Budget changes.

bill of £20m in the year to April 1999, The two casino operators blasted the

The casino industry faces an extra tax

Chancellor's decision and pleaded with the Government to reassess the situa-

A statement released by Capital Corporation yesterday said: "The company deeply regrets this punitive tax measure. Within a highly regulated industry the opportunities to pass on such a substantial increase in taxes are extremely limited, and the proposed change is likely to undermine London's pre-eminent position in the casino market."

London Clubs said the move would blow a £12m a year hole in its profits. Allan Goodenough, the chief executive

of London Clubs, said: "I do not believe that it was the Chancellor's intention to therefore be pressing as strongly as reversed."

The Government announced on Budget. Tuesday that the top rate of gaming duty payable on casinos' gross gaming yield, which is the amount left over after gammove will hit the larger casino operators ing low-paid work. hardest which tend to be sited in the capital. Last year more than 80 per cent of income tax, this should so increase the finos out of the total of 116 in the UK.

Shares in other casino groups dipped yesterday. Stakis, which owns a number of casinos as well as hotels, gave up 2.5p to 118p and Ladbroke slipped 1.75p to

The industry, in conjunction with the British Casino Association, now intends to lobby the Government furiously over the next few weeks in an attempt to overturn the controversial decision.

The Customs and Excise department stands to collect more than £100m a year from gaming duty after the tax hike. It is a severe blow to an industry which is worth more than £2.3bn a year.

NI reforms 'should mean lower minimum wage'

By Andrew Verity

create a 'London Clubs tax' and we shall THE HEAD of the Government's tax and benefit review is urging the Government possible to persuade the Government to bring in a low minimum wage, claimthat this is a mistake and should be ingit is justified by radical reforms of National Insurance adopted in Tuesday's

In a little-noticed paragraph in his report on modernising the tax and benefit system published this week, Martin Taylor blers' winnings, is to rise to 40 per cent said: "I believe [the reforms] considerably from 33.5 per cent from 1 April. The increase the attractions of offering and tak-

"Combined with a low starting rate of gaming duty was paid by 21 London casi-nancial attractiveness of low-paid jobs as

Employer	s NI Con	tributions
Wage (£ per week)	April 1998	April 1999
£100	23	\$2,32
€156	£7.50	£8.42
£208	514	£14.52
2350	£35	£32.82

2100

take this reform into account in their deliberations." The report drew a lukewarm response from employee benefit experts who point-

lower level than would otherwise he the

case. I urge the Low Pay Commission to

ed out that in many cases the reforms would lead to higher national insurance contributions (NICs) for low-payers. Under Mr Taylor's reforms, an employer paving £150 a week - a possibility under a national minimum wage - would contribute £8.42. That compares with £7.50 under the current system.

John Whiting, an employee benefits expert at Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, said: "There are a lot of employers who, once they sit down and work out the numbers, are going to find they are paying more. Arguably, this is a step in the wrong direction."

According to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, higher employer NICs will sometimes be offset by the abolition of the "entry fee" for employee's NICs. The entry fee requires employees to pay contributions worth 2 per cent of all their wages when they carn just over £64.

The reforms will boost employer contributions for high earners by approximately 2 per cent - a tax rise which is expected to be passed on to employees.

IFS verdict on NICs, page 27

£462,000 pay-off for Hanson's son angers shareholders

By Andrew Yates

3.05

3.00

ROBERT HANSON, already one of the most eligible bachelors in Britain, has received a controversial £462,000 pay-off from the firm founded by his as well as his basic salary of father Lord Hanson. Including £220,000 a year. bonuses, salary and the comceived a total of £825,000.

The pay-out has incurred the wrath of shareholders. Several large institutions are unhappy that he is being compensated for the 18 months left on his contract, even though he left his position of corporate development director of his own accord to pursue interests at the Hanson family's private transport

The package given to Robert break-up of the £10bn Hanson

Hanson, who has been seen with a string of beautiful women on his arm over the last few years. was much higher than originally reported. It included 18 months' worth of benefits and bonuses

Lord Hanson also made pensation pay out, Robert re- more than £900,000 from the group in the 15 months to December, including a £317,000 profit on the sale of share options. The figures were disclosed in the company's annual report.

Robert followed in his father's footsteps by announcing his resignation from Hanson last year, ending the family's association with the group. Their exit came in the wake of the been turned from a sprawling conglomerate to a pure building materials group.

Hanson is now chaired by Christopher Collins, who is married to the niece of Lord Hanson. Mr Collins endorsed to the payments to Robert Hauson at the time of his departure.

The company claims that Robert Hanson was entitled to the pay-off as his role was materially changed after the company was demerged from the Energy Group. Hanson said yesterday the group no longer needed a corporate development director as it was now concentrating on finding smaller, bolt-on acquisitions.

Robert Hanson has not been replaced and his job is now be-

empire. The Hanson group has ing performed by Andrew Dougal, the group's chief executive. The money will help Robert

Hanson fund his hectic social life. Never far from the gossip columns, Robert Hanson has been romantically linked with Sophie Anderton, who is famous for modelling lingerie and "It-girls" such as Tara Palmer-Tomkinson and Normandy Keith.

Hanson's annual report published yesterday also revealed that Brian Heilings, a former finance director, received compensation of £430,000 last year. Mr Hellings was appointed to help out the finance department after stepping down as a director of the group. However his role was also downgraded after the demerger.

Wickes directors double their money

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

Two directors of Wickes, the recovering DIY retailer, received bonuses of almost £500,000 be-

tween them last year, almost doubling their salary in both cases.

moted to chief executive in 1996 after the company discovered a back hole in its accounts, received a bonus of £248,000. This took his total remuneration last year to £511,000. Bill Hoskins, finance director, received a £200,000 bonus, taking his total pay to £449,000.

The company said the bonuses were performance-related, although no method of calculation was detailed in the accounts. A spokesman for Wickes said

Wickes are heavily performance-related and the directors' Bill Grimsey, who was pro-

success in achieving profits that few thought possible at the beginning of 1997 are reflected in the bonuses for that year. If they don't succeed they get no bonus. Over the last year or so shareholders have seen the shares rise in value from around 130p to approaching 300p." They closed up 3p yesterday at 297.5p.

the recovery of the company

which was close to collapse after

the £50m black hole was dis-

'The salary packages at

covered and Henry Sweetbaum

departed as chief executive.

The accounts, published yesterday, also showed Mr Grimsey was granted aimost 400,000 share options at 175.5p. These are not exercisable for two years but are already worth the boouses were justified given

LDV and Daewoo to create 2,000 jobs

By Michael Harrison

THE GOVERNMENT will today announce financial support for a £160m van plant to be built in Birmingham by LDV and Daewoo of Korea creating up to 2,000 jobs.

£45.02

£63.32

£112.12

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is expected to confirm that the Government will contribute around £23m-£28m of assistance to the joint venture, which intends to produce 80,000 vans a year by 2005.

Daewoo is expected to invest minority shareholding in LDV. The chairman of Daewoo. Woo-choong Kim, plans to fly in for a formal signing ceremony nexi week.

The investment is a feather in the can for the UK at a time when other Korean conglomer-

ates are cancelling investment plans in the wake of the down-

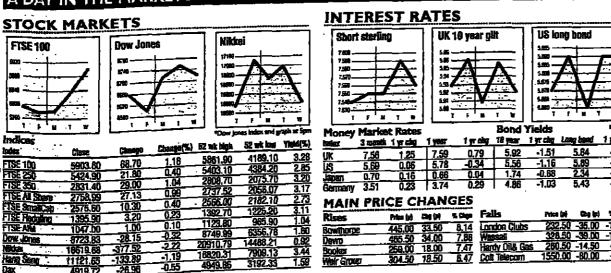
turn in the Asian economies. The new plant will produce 40,000 LDV-badged vans and 40,000 Daewoo-badged vans a year to replace the current LDV range of Pilot and Convoy vans. About 75 per cent of pro-

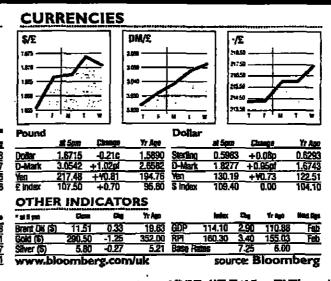
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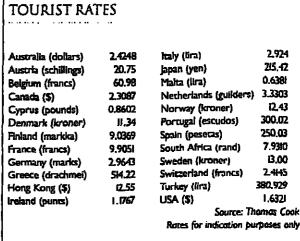
LDV produces 20,000 vans year at present with a workforce of 1,500 and is Britain's only remaining independent van maker. It was bought out by its management after the cola similar amount and take a lapse of the Dutch truck and van group DAF.

Daewoo plans to build 150,000 of the same van range at a new plant in Poland. Dacwoo has invested £130m in a UK dealer network and has a technical design centre in Worthing, Sussex, employing 1,000.

A DAY IN THE MARKETS







BT signs deal

ICL to press ahead with float despite contract delay

By Michael Harrison

ICL, the information technology company owned by Fujilsu of Japan, yesterday shrugged off delays on a £1bn contract to automate the benefit payments system by confirming that it is to clients. press ahead with a stock market flotation.

Analysis estimate that the flotation, scheduled to take place in 2000, could value ICL at between £1.5bn and £2bn. The company returned to the black of network. in 1997 after several years of drawal from computer manu-

Announcing a turnaround from operating losses of £6.6m in 1996 to profits of £32.5m last year, Keith Todd, ICL's chief executive said a flotation was "very definitely on".

crease its operating margins three-fold over the next two years, indicating that it expects to be making profits of about £180m on sales of £3bn by the

Mr Todd also denied ICL had encountered problems with the State Benefit payments contract - the biggest IT scheme awarded under the Government's Private Finance Initiative and ICEs biggest single project.

The scheme, to automate benefit payments at 19,000 post offices by replacing payment books with smart cards, is running two years behind the original timetable. It was due to come on stream fully this year. However, because ICL and its two clients, the Benefits Agency and the Post Office, have decided more time is required to test the system, it will not be ready until

that the project was in danger of collapse or that ICL Pathway, the subsidiary which is running the project, was in danger of being removed from the contract, although be confirmed that talks had taken place with the two

"The austomer loves this proiect and the software is world class. I only have one problem and that is working through the number of international opportunities we have to install this type

He said that both Denmark heavy losses caused by its with- and Australia were interested while ICL would decide in the next three to four weeks whether to proceed with a major benefits automation project elsewhere

ICL has so far spent £125m in the contract and its total investment is expected to reach But he said ICL need to in- around £600m before its starts to earn significant revenues from 2000 onwards. ICL receives a payment each time the card is used. There are 19 million benefit claimants carrying out a total of some 890 million transactions each year.

The company has estimated revenues from the contract at £1bn but its franchise expires in 2005 at which time it will have to tender to renew the concession.

Mr Todd said he was very confident ICL Pathway would meet its operational targets it had agreed with the Benefits Agency but refused to comment on whether the terms of the contract were being renegotiated.

However, John Bennett, the managing director of ICL Pathway, said that no changes in the contract or any possible penalty payments for late delivery were being considered. There are no changes at all. The structure of the



Sun, sea and shares: Thomson Travel will entice investors with a package of benefits including discounts on a range of holidays

Thomson Travel set to make £1.5bn market debut

THOMSON Travel, the UK's largest tour operator and owner of Lunn Poly travel agent chain, yesterday confirmed plans to come to the stock market, in what would be the biggest flotation of the year so far.

City analysts believe the group will be valued at up to £1.5bn. And to entice customers and private investors to buy shares in the group it plans to offer a package of benefits including discounts on a range of

holidays. Thomson Corporation, the

clear that it would have difficulty funding the ambitious expansion of both arms of its business

Thomson Travel plans to hit

the acquisition trail once it comes to the market. It is eyeing up targets throughout Continental Europe where it will come head to head with Airtours, its arch-rival in the UK, which has similar ambitions. The company is also keen to expand its cruise operations.

Paul Brett, chief executive of lobbied hard for the group's independence said vesterday: "I Canadian media giant, has fi- am very excited. The logic for Mr Todd rejected reports contract remains intact," he said. nally decided to hive off the this deal was inescapable. There

travel group after it became would have been a competition for funds at Thomson.

> Mr Brett and his fellow directors are likely to buy shares in the new group and will be entitled to a new long-term incentive and bonus package. All of Thomson Travel's 14,000 employees will be able to purchase shares at a preferential

Thomson also plans an aggressive push to win market share in the UK by offering more family holidays. However Thomson Travel, who has it ruled out a large increase in capacity which lead to heavy discounting and brought the industry to its knees in 1995. Thomson Corporation is

Thomson Travel is also paying £125m to its Canadian parent to take control of the strong pound.

virtually unscathed.

dustry which left travel groups

Fritidsresor, the troubled Scanselling the whole travel group but the Thomson family are dinavian holiday group Nordicregion holiday company. keen to retain their involvement and are expected to buy up to

Thomson Travel is a market leader in the UK travel industry. 20 per cent of Thomson Travel. Thomson Corporation is ex-Its tour operating arm served 3.7 pected to use the sale proceeds million customers last year, accounting for more than a fifth of to continue its conversion from the £7bn package holiday mara newspaper company into a publisher of specialist financial ket. As well as owning almost 800 information. The decision to Lumn Poly shops the group owns Britannia Airways, the UK's float the group has also been largest charter airline and Holprompted by the result of the Monopolies and Mergers Comiday Cottages, the biggest holimission investigation into the inday cottage supplier.

Thomson announced a rise in pre-tax profits to £112.4m from £81.9m, thanks to the buoyant holiday industry and

Satellite group plans £ibn move to market

By Peter Thal Larsen

INMARSAT, the international satellite group in which British Telecom holds a significant stake, is preparing a £1bn flotation within the next two years after its owners cleared a restructuring which will turn the 🐗 group into conventional com-

pany.

More than 81 countries have a stake in Inmarsat, mostly through their national telecom companies. The group, which was originally set up to provide distressed sailors with a way of signalling for help, has nine satellites stationed in space allowing it to provide one of the only truly global networks for mobile communications.

However, Inmarsat's co-operative structure means it is illequipped to raise the new investment it needs to upgrade its network. The group needs to raise \$2.50m (£1.50m) to buy and \$ launch five new satellites which will support Horizon, a new superfast data communications service which will allow computer users to access the internet from anywhere in the world, and will be on the market from

Major shareholders such as BT, which owns 8 per cent of the company, had threatened to refuse further investment if the company did not change its structure.

If the change is approved by Inmarsat's Assembly next month, it will become a conventional company. For the first year, shareholders will be allowed to buy shares from each other. Inmarsat is also expected to invite equipment suppliers to take equity stakes. The company has the power to issue up to \$500m in new

Subsequently, new investors will be allowed in before the company is floated ~ probably in New York and London. The flotation could bring a windfall worth several hundreds of millions of pounds for BT

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Kingfisher beats expectations

IT IS one of the ironies of the City that attendances at companies' results meetings are often in inverse proportion to the quality of financial performance. Two or three years ago, when Kingfisher was struggling, the Woolworths and B&Q retailer had to hold its meetings in a large conference hall to accommodate all the ambulance chasers. Now a small room is sufficient and only half a dozen turn up.

None of this will bother Sir Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's lugubrious chief executive who has worked wonders with this group, having almost lost his grip on it back in 1995. It is firing on all cylinders and the share price has reached new highs. Having dipped to a low of 3890 in early 1995, the shares have been reaching skyward ever since and a 25 per cent surge this year alone has taken them to a record high of 1,096p, up 59p

The reason is that with each set of results and quarterly sales updates, analysts have to keep upgrading forecasts. Yesterday's full-year figures were a case in point, exceeding all expectations with a 34 per cent rise to £520.5m.

Like-for-like sales across the group were 8.3 per cent ahead of last year with B&Q leading the way with a thumping 12.6 per cent gain. Of course, if a DIY retailer was not raking in it last year, with rising house prices and negative equity disappearing, then they never will, But B&Q has increased its market share from 17 to 19 per cent in a year sector and analysts are confident about and its Warehouse format of larger prospects. But with a tougher year on stores are performing strongly. With 30 the high street ahead, this may look like outlets now, it plans a further seven this the top in six months time. It could be year and sees scope for a total of 75.

Woolworths is working well with the introduction of electronic point of sales helping margins, which rose from Smiths profits 5.5 per cent to 6.3 per cent. Superdrug profits dipped due to investment in the from free cash portfolio and Darty is starting to see an improvement in the tough French electricals market.

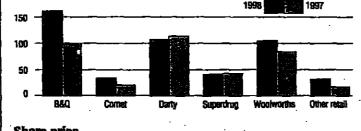
The key question with Kingfisher now is can Kingfisher continue its terrific run? Sir Geoff Mulcahy made a point of warning that the five hikes in interest rates could be affecting consumer confidence. Sales at Comet are starting to slow down and, as the company admits, it was electrical retailers that were lead indicators of the last recession.

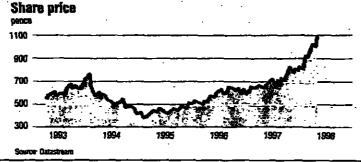
On increased forecasts of £572m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 19. This is only in line with the retail

Kingfisher: At a glance Market value: £7.4bm, share price 1096p (+59p) 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 Five-year record

tev division. Ωm

1110)001 100010	1000	1007	1000	1000	1441
Turnover (£bn)	4.5	4.9	5.3	5.8	6.4
Pre-tax profits (£m)	309.3	244.2	311.7	388.7	520.5
Earnings per share (p)	29.88	37.65	31.5	41.4	57.4
Dividends per share (p)	14.9	15.2	16.2	19.0	23.0
Operating profit					





time to lock in profits.

SIR ROGER HURN's track record at Smiths Industries is second to none. Under his stewardship, the engineering group has prospered in industries that are far from sexy: aerospace, medical systems and industrial products. As Sir Roger turns his attention to the chairmanship of GEC, however, the question is whether Smiths can keep it going.

Interim results for the six months spite a squeeze from sterling. Smiths is how long Smiths can carry on its Place will probably triple its size by

in pre-tax profits to £89.3m. That rise includes a contribution from Graseby, the medical pumps business that Smiths bought last year for £136m. But the aerospace and industrial divisions also produced good organic growth. Only the medical side, which suffered from the strong pound, lagged behind with a 3 per cent underlying rise.

Can this last? Well, maybe. The key to Smiths' success is its huge free cash flow, which it can use to finance investment and acquisitions. Even after paying for interest, tax, dividends and capital spending, Smiths generated almost £34m of cash in the half year.

A few clouds have appeared on the long-term horizon, however. The first is the civil aerospace cycle, which is likely to head down again in a few years' time. Smiths says demand for defence acrospace will more than make up the to 31 January, released yesterday, shortfall, but analysts wonder what will showed no obvious weak points. De- happen to margins. Another question produced a solid 11 per cent increase three-pronged growth strategy before 2000. The shares are still good value.

the divisions become too cumbersome and suitable acquisitions too hard to find. Smiths' role in the restructuring of the European defence industry is another imponderable.

On full-year profit forecasts of £220m, the shares, up 2.5p to 874p, trade on a forward p/e ratio of 18, suggesting the market thinks Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Sir Roger's successor, will produce more of the same. He deserves the benefit of the doubt, but only just. For now, high enough.

Holmes Place builds up gyms

THE GYM is no longer just the preserve of the hulking weight lifter or the injured sports star. Health clubs are becoming increasingly popular with the average man or woman in the street. Even the odd financial journalist has occasionally been spotted on an

exercise bike. The result has been an explosion in the health and fitness market with new clubs springing up everywhere. Holmes Place is one of the new stock market stars that has cashed in on this rapid growth. There is a danger is that the industry will become oversupplied. But with the market forecast to carry on growing by at least 10 per cent a year there should be plenty of room for op-erators like Holmes Place to expand.

The group plans to accelerate its opening programme, setting up about 10 new clubs a year, which should be the main driver of its growth. On top of that it has signed a deal with Regal Hotels to add up to 25 gyms over the next few years throughout its chain and

is looking to grow in Europe. Holmes Place share price has powered ahead since it floated last November at 128p. Yesterday it jumped another 11p to 287p as it announced that profits more than doubled to £5.4m last year, Analysis forecast current-year profits rising to £6.8m. Even then, the shares trade on a prospective p/e of more than 30 times. However, this is not just a short-term profits story. Earnings growth will be slowed by rapid openings and a new, half a million pound advertising

The real potential lies over the medium term as club membership rises and its heavy investment programme begins to pay off. On its current rate of expansion Holmes

Dutch bank gives boost to City job prospects

By Lea Paterson

A DUTCH investment bank gave a much-needed boost to employment prospects in the City of London vesterday by hiring 12 equity staff - including eight from UBS - and saying it would take on up to an extra 75 by the end of the year. Rabobank said the eight ex-

UBS employees included Paul Deslandes, the former head of European equity trading at UBS, and Paul Simpson, an employee in UBS's equity arbitrage division. Mr Deslandes is to be global head of equity trading at Rabobank and Mr Simpson is to be head of equity arbitrage. Both will report to Marcus Grubb, global head of equities at the bank.

The bank said it was trying to build a "research-driven" equities business. The Dutch bank is the latest investment bank to try and capitalise on recent stake-ups in the City, including the merg-er of UBS and SBC, the sale of the equities divisions of both Nat West and Barclays, and, most recently, the proposed restructure at Chase Manhattan, the US investment bank.

Commerzbank, a leading German bank, and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, a US bank, have both recently said they intended to recruit hundreds of equity staff in the City.

Earlier this week, both NatWest Markets and Pannure Gordon said they had snapped up some top UBS equity specialists. Nat West Markets - whose equity team will soon transfer to Bankers Trust - has hired nine former UBS staff. Panmure Gordon has hired a further 12.

The other UBS staff hired by Rabobank are Michael Webb and Simon Mills - who will both be directors of pan-European trading-together with John Dow, Simon Spence, Mark Ayres and Darryl Willoughby.

Rabobank has also hired Paul Hammond, who was a head of UK equities at Morgan Stanley, Max Wellby and Chris Lee from BZW, the former investment banking arm of Barclays, and Charles Giessen of Salomon

Bridge pays \$510m for **Dow Jones Markets**

DOW Jones & Co has agreed to sell its unprofitable financial information unit, Dow Jones Markets - formerly known as Telerate - to Bridge Information Systems for \$510m (£310m) in cash and stock. Under the agreement, Bridge will pay \$360m in cash and \$150m in five-year, convertible preferred stock. With the sale, Dow Jones sheds a money-losing unit that led it to take a \$922.5m charge in the fourth quarter to write down the value of its initial \$1.6bn purchase of Telerate.

Nikon invests £3m in UK

NIKON, the Japanese corporation, is to invest £3m in a new laboratory in Milton Keynes - its first venture in the UK. The ophthalmic lens facility is expected to generate 30 jobs initially and will serve European demand for its lenses. Nikon said the move would complete its global plans for production facilities in Japan, North America and Europe.

Kwik Save deal to go ahead

THE PLANNED £1.3bn merger of supermarket groups Somerfield and Kwik Save was given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade and Industry yesterday. Margaret Beckett, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said she had decided not to refer the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The merged group would have around 7 per cent of the UK market, compared with market leader Tesco's near 17 per cent.

GLAXO Wellcome, the drugs giant, has been given approval

EU approval for HIV drug

by the European Commission to market Combivir in all 15 countries in the European Union. Combivir is used for the management of HIV infection. It combined two anti-retroviral drugs in a single tablet, reducing the number of tablets taken, Glaxo said.

Profits rise at P&O venture

P&O Nedlicyd, the container shipper, yesterday said prospects for 1998 and 1999 were good but warned the consequences of the Asian crisis remained uncertain. The year-old Anglo-Dutch joint venture said 1997 profits before interest, merger costs and tax were \$73m (£44.2m) compared with pro forma 1996 pre-tax profits of \$19m.

COMPANY	RESUL	TS		
ļ <u></u>	Turnover £	Pre-Cax £	EPS	Dividend
American Port (F)	37.47m (28.11m)		8.5p (11.5p)	2.15p
BARE Bennerces (F)	127.5m (115,2m)	5.7m (6.36m)	16.8p (20.9p)	7.8p (7.8p)
Gestron (F) Bowlinspe (F)	80.82m (80.44m)	3.39m (5.85m)	8.6p (24.4p)	7.3p (7.0p)
A Campi (L)	540.6m (524.9m)		26.23p (20.9p)	11.20 (10.20)
Churchill Chins (F)	74.00m2 (77.71m)	9.11m (8.95m)	20.9p (20.2p)	9.1p (8.5p)
Devro (F)	53.85m (54.10m)	6.12m (6.16m)	40.1p (40.3p)	14.3p (13.0p)
Gearlance Gross (I)	284.5m (302.2m)	58.0rg (44.4m)	23.6p (18.5p)	9.5p (8.5p)
Hacieys (F)	30.11m (20,31m)	1.33m (1.63m)	5.8p (9.8p)	2.6n (2.4p)
Restock (F)	507.4m (592.1m)	21.52m (33.33m)		16.5p (15.0p)
KingSisher (F)	320.9m (267.3m) 5.40bn (5.81ba)	23.46m (8.26m)	4.09p (1.85p)	2.20p (2.0p)
Jobs Lakes (F)	1.460m (1.22bm)	520.5m (388.7m)	57.4p (41.4p)	23.0p (19.0p)
Rea Brothers (F)	(-)	32.2m (24.5m)	25.7p (17.7p)	10.5p (9.5p)
Rosebye (F)	184.7sn (13.5m)	3.53m (1.81m)	4.93b (2.5p)	1.25p (1.0p)
Scholl (F)	179.1m (112.8m)	13.00m (7.05m)	24.1p (17.7p)	11.8p (7.78p)
Street (P)	30.0m (27.88m)	23.3m (20.6m)	18.2p (16.0p)	5.3p (4.7p)
Scalith's backestries (1)	553.1µ (495.3m)	3.23m (2.59m) 89.3m (84.2m)	4.14p (3.15g)	1.85 ₀ (1.79p)
istaciales Corp (P)	37.23m (25.09m)	4.11m (3.07m)	19.7p (17.6p)	6.75p (6.15p)
PW Thomps	13.17m (11.29m)	1.59m (1.212m)	14.1p (12.0p)	3.7p (3.0p)
Wilson Councily (P)	312.0m (300.3m)	38.0m (26.4m)	8.47p (6.21p)	1.50p (1.37p)
Lectio When (F)	72.5m (68.0m)	1.11m (2.8m)	13.1p (9.0p)	4.00 (3.446)
(F) - Rosal (F) - Interier		A	2.36p (5.29p)	1.5p (3.0p)

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OUTLOOK ON THE CHANCELLOR'S BUDGET STRATEGY. THE IDEA OF A **GOVERNMENT STAKE** IN RAILTRACK AND THE PAY-OFF TO ROBERT HANSON

Brown is not such a Tory Chancellor after all

SO YOU thought Gordon Brown was a most loudly with the Government's attack Tory, did you? Think again. According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the measures introduced in the two Budgets since the election amount to the biggest redistribution from rich to poor for decades.

You'd be forgiven for not having noticed. The pain has been so well and cleverly spread that it has barely been felt. Furthermore, the numbers are not large. The bottom half of earners have gained between a half and three per cent of their income, while the top half have lost just 0.3 per cent of theirs. The figures also ignore the fact that the income of high earners is growing at a much faster rate than that of the low paid, so that the gap between rich and poor continues to widen notwithstanding anything the Government has done to correct it.

Even so, some redistribution has been achieved. It is what Labour Governments are supposed to be for, and the reality is that Mr Brown has already gone some of the distance, despite impressions to the contrary. Mr Brown might appear to be the best Tory Chancellor since the war, but underneath

it all, he's Labour through and through. Part of the eleverness of Mr Brown's approach is that there's so little in it the better off can fundamentally disagree with. Nobody can object too much to the costs of a package of measures to help the poor if the intention is to make work pay. What's more, when this is balanced with progressive measures to help business and enterprise, to complain looks more churlish still. Certainly, there has been some grumbling. on pension savings through the abolition of tax credits on dividends, but nearly everything the Chancellor has done has so far paid off, politically and economically.

At the same time, it has been impossible to fault the Chancellor on macro-econamic policy. The borrowing requirement has come down faster than expected, and spending control has been tighter than anybody imagined possible. Those who carp that this week's Budget was not tough enough are simply posturing. They would be whingeing about the rising tax burden had it been any tighter.

If there is a cloud on the horizon, it is the strength of the pound. The irony here is that Mr Brown handed the reins over to the Bank of England to take the politics out of interest rate decisions and make sure that if there were tough choices, they would be taken. But who can doubt on his present showing that the Chancellor would have raised rates further and faster if it had been left to him rather than the timorous doves on the Monetary Policy Committee?

Lower interest rates might take the beat

out of the pound but given how much of the present monetary tightening in the economy is itself down to the strength of sterling, that could prove very much a double edged sword. The effect would be doubly inflationary. Alternatively, an immediate sharp increase in rates along with a statement, like the one the MPC issued in August, saying there was no more inclination to tighten, might send sterling lower, such is the psychology of markets.

Strangely, then, the one big question mark hanging over Mr Brown's first innings is not one directly of his own making. There's already been a considerable fiscal tightening under Mr Brown; monetary policy has to be allowed to do the rest in the fight against inflation. With the public finances in good shape, the stock market at another record high and a start made on necessary microeconomic reforms, the Chancellor can afford to ignore the few post-Budget grumbles there are.

Committee heads off the rails

WHILE Gordon Brown has proved he can wear the hair shirt of austerity as well as any Tory Chancellor, the Conservatives are demonstrating that they too are not averse to stealing the clothes that were once worn only on the left of the People's Party.

One of the (unanimous) recommendations yesterday from the Commons Transport Select Committee, which includes a bevy of Conservative members, is that the Government should consider taking an equity stake in Railtrack, the owner of the nation's privatised railroads, signalling and stations,

Finished rubbing the disbelief from your eyes? Quite right, the last politician to air this harebrained idea was Clare Short when she was shadow Transport Secretary. Clare's idea was that once in power Labour would re-assert some form of state influence over the railways by con-

verting the huge public subsidies the network receives into equity. Sort of like a disguised rights issue with the Government emerging as an important minority shareholder.

It was one of the reasons that the last government ended up getting such a lousy price for Railtrack and why the shares have since almost tripled in value. Investors panicked at the prospect of a Labour victory and drove the flotation price down. What on earth are they to make now of a similar proposition receiving all-party support? Ms Short never really explained how the Government or the taxpayer would benefit from taking an equity stake in Railtrack and nor does the Select Committee.

But the idea that investment decisions might in some way be second guessed by politicians or that the dead hand of Whitehall should be allowed to dictate the development of the railways should fill investors with dread. The Select Committee ought to know better and its madeap idea should to be stopped in its tracks before it gathers any momentum.

Leaving bad blood with investors

NICE to see that good corporate governance lives on at Hanson PLC, the building materials group demerged a few years back from the conglomerate of the

This was the bit of Hanson which fa-

ther James and son Robert decided to make their home after the conglomerate split into four. Both of them left at Christmas. Lord Hanson simply retired while his son Rohert resigned "voluntarily" so as to run his father's privately owned transport business in the North East.

There's nothing wrong as such with successful industrialists wanting their sons to follow in their footsteps, though as a point of principle institutional investors invariable object to the creation of business dynasties and it was always a bit of a mystery as to what the young Robert really did round there.

But what could justify a payoff of nearly £500,000? After all, he was supposed to have gone "voluntarily" and he would never have been there at all but for his father. The same goes for the present Hanson chairman, Christopher Collins, who himself managed to hitch his wagon to the Hanson caravan some years back by marrying the good Lord's niece.

When asked last November about Robert's impending departure, Mr Collins said the young lad could expect some compensation since he had once been corporate development director of a £10bn conglomerate but that role had been reduced by the demerger to the same job in "a focused building materials company". Poor mite. Nobody thought he meant half a mil, though. We can only assume that to justify such a sum he must have made some great awe inspiring contribution to corporate development. But then again. perhaps it was just leaving.

BT signs deal with China Telecom

economic development and it is

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH TELECOM has taken ket, potentially one of the biggest in the world, by signing a mem- and strong telecommunications operator China Telecom.

The agreement, signed on BT chairman, and Zhang Ligui, the director general of China Telecom, provides for the two companies to swap technology and examine business oppor-

less, its UK rival, which hopes

com and tap into the expansion of the Chinese telecoms market.

Mr Ligui said: "China Teleits first step into the Chinese mar- com is very keen to develop orandum of understanding infrastructure is an essential

important we widely co-operate strong links with BT A modern be limited to training and ex-

with leading carriers such as BT" Initially, the agreement will change of technologies but BT executives believe it could be the alent of BT's domestic network (MoU) with the state-owned element to China's future start of a much bigger alliance. growing by half every 12 months.

It opened an office in Peking iust over a year ago and has been looking at ways to enter the Chinese telecoms market, which is growing at a rate of 10 million new lines a year. This is the equiv-

The agreement, signed on The agreement of the

crosoft subsidiary which specialises in providing internet over the television, chose BT's of how British consumers will take to the system. The MoU brings BT into internet business to support a trial of WebTV competition with Cable & Wire- in the UK, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

to use its presence in Hong Kong with a set-top box, manufactured by Pace Micro dollars, the system is a relatively cheap way to conto forge links with China Tele- Technology and Sony, and a connection to BT lo- nect to the internet.

MICROSOFT and British Telecom yesterday ternet, allowing them access to the internet from linked up for the first time when WebTV, the Mi-their televisions. WebTV is hoping the trial, which will last for about five months, will give it an idea

WebTV has proved popular in the US, where 300,000 viewers are connected to the service. Be-Several hundred BT customers will be furnished cause the set-top boxes only cost a few hundred

Last June C&W sold a 5.5 per cent stake in Hongkong Telecom to China Telecom for £726m, reducing its majority shareholding to 54.5 per cent. At the time C&W said the deal would provide opportunities for it to co-operate with China Telecom in the Chinese market. It also held out the possibility of a further reduction in its shareholding in Hongkong Telecom to bring the C&W and China Telecom stakes into line.

Reacting to the agreement between China Telecom and BT, a C&W spokesman said: "We are pleased with our relationships in China and we are to play in this huge market." | already supplies a similar flight | cially important to Sextant in the

Smiths Industries to supply cockpit electronics to Airbus

By Peter Thal Larsen

SMITHS Industries, the engineering group, has made a major breakthrough by agreeing a deal to supply its flight management systems to Airbus, the European planemaker.

The company yesterday announced that Sextant Avionique, the state-owned French electronics group which is a major supplier to Airbus, will include Smiths' technology in its electronics for the cockpit.

head to head with Honeywell, confident that C&W and Hong- a rival US supplier, on cockpit craft manufacturers. kong Telecom will have big roles systems for the Airbus. Smiths

of Boeing. Smiths would not disclose

agreement, which is unlikely to start contributing to its profits until deliveries start until 2002. But Sir Roger Hurn, Smiths' chairman, said the deal was "qualitative rather than quantitative" for the company because it gives Smiths a good chance to expand the amount

Roger said neither Boeing nor ment. The deal allows Sextant to go Airbus had resisted the company supplying parts to both air-

Smiths' system will be espe- by 11 per cent to £89.3m.

of work it does for Airbus, Sir

management to several models US market, where Boeing dominates but where Airbus is making rapid strides. By being the financial details of the able to offer the same system which pilots are already used to, Sextant stands a good chance of winning in the battle with Honeywell.

Buyers of Airbus aircraft can currently choose either supplier to fit out the cockpits. but until recently Sextant has been hampered by its inability to offer a full range of equip-

The news came as Smiths announced that profits for the six months to 31 January increased

Investment column, page 24

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Clare Spottiswoode hails opening of domestic gas markets



transfer to a new gas supplier as the market fully opens to competition, Clare Spottiswoode (above), the gas regulator, said yesterday.

Ms Spottiswoode, director general of Ofgas, said competition in gas supply, which enables domestic consumers to choose which company supplies their gas, is

"So far around 7.3 million people ... can choose their as supplier and already around 1.3 million - almost one in five – are choosing to switch.

"By comparison, only one in 10 telephone subscribers have switched away from British Telecom," she added. Photograph: Kalpesh Lathigra

Kingfisher expands Music Video Club in challenge to WH Smith

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

KINGFISHER, the B&O and Woolworths retailer, is expanding its Music Video Club (MVC) chain in a move that could see it move into territory traditionally occupied by WH Smith.

MVC has 47 shops specialising in selling entertainment products to older, "lapsed" music buyers who find superstores such as HMV and Virgin too loud and intimidating. A further 20 branches will open this year. Kinggsher is also adding a bye of 7,000 books to its

Hampshire, in a trial that could in profits at B&Q, the DIY busialso have implications for WH ness and good performances trials in home shopping. Wool-Smith if extended to the whole from Woolworths and Comet. portfolio.

MVC has signed up 2.5 million members to its club card company is now proposing a in spring. A "back to school" which bestows discounts on purchases. The database will be used for marketing purposes. Kingfisher said it had not deliberately targeted Smiths but admitted that it could benefit from Smiths' decision that music was no longer a core activity.

Kingfisher unveiled record results for last year. Profits soared by 34 per cent to £520.5m. Comet has slowed a little in rethe moment.

Kingfisher shares soared 59p

to a new high of 1,037p. The two-for-one share split to improve liquidity. Sir Geoff Mulcahy, chief executive, said the group was well

placed to build on its good past performance. However, he did warn of a potential consumer slowdown: There are signs that The announcements came as the five hikes in interest rates confidence." Sales growth at

Sir Geoff announced further worths tested a Christmas catalogue in some stores last year and is planning another mail out catalogue will be launched in the summer. At B&Q, it has set up a centre call centre for kitchen sales. Sir Geoff said Asia was a possible area of future expansion. Its two branches of B&Q in Taiwan are trading well.

In Europe, the group could afford an acquisition of up to could be affecting consumer film, he said, but added that nothing was on the agenda at





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Budget boosts Footsie past 5,900 barrier

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

A surprise slowdown in 118p. average earnings and the bined to alleviate higher in-"pro-market" Budget.

during London hours were other influences.

Footsie ended the session at its best level, up 68.7 to a 5.903.6 peak. At the start of the year it was 5,135.5. The mid and SmallCap indices also reached new highs.

casinos. They were among the control of the Savoy Hotel Budget losers. London Clubs chain will end soon with a US International spun 35p lower to 232.5p and Capital Corpobroke, the subject of extensive also a beneficiary of the na-visit today.

EQUITIES enjoyed a Budget speculation over a possible tional insurance changes boom with Footsic crossing the hotel deal on Budget day, which helped the likes of higher to 589.5p as Salomon 5,900 points barrier for the first shaded 1.75p to 336p and Stakis surrendered 2.5p to

New York's overnight troleum shrugged off an early

Granada, the leisure group, was among those closing at a high - up 7.5p to 994p. There was talk of more dis-shares. posals with some suggesting announcements were imminent. Travelodge, the 160 chain of budget hotels, was one But it was not joy for every- division said to be likely to go one. Tougher gaming tax en- and there was growing specusured the chips were down for lation the group's effective

chain moving in. Kingfisher, on results, ration lost 15p to 126p. Lad- bounded 59p to 1.096p. It is to 188p ahead of an analysts'

Rank, up 18.25p at 378p, and Asda, 6p to 200.75p.

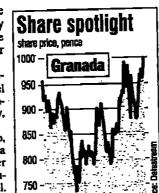
Wassail, one of the few re-Oils were also hit as the maining conglomerates, tumexpected retail sales fall com- Government threatened to bled 39p to 328.5p after was topped by a Goldman £2.9m for next and then £4.5m. reshape the North Sea tax disclosing its intention to be- Sachs 775p forecast. terest rate fears, leaving the regime. Enterprise Oil fell come a leveraged buyout group. It said its major instiwhat has been described as a 4.75p to 267p. Shell gave up tutions supported such a move 275.5p after Crédit Lyonnais & Wireless eased 6p to 710p 6p to 416.5p but British Pe- but there was widespread unrest in the market. Chief exstrength and its steady display fall to end 9p higher at 822.5p. ecutive Chris Miller said the change was an innovative way for conglomerates to tackle the underperformance of their

> Transport companies continued to advance on the fuel rebates for bus operators. National Express, figures today, improved 22p to 824.5p.

> Unigate, the dairy group, added 10.5p to 700p after a positive investment dinner hosted by Henderson Crosthwaite at London's Ritz Hotel. Hazlewood Foods hardened 2p

National Power went 7p Smith Barney lifted its target price to 1,175p and Diageo held at 684p after Morgan Stanley suggested 750p which

British Vita, the chemical group, improved 10.5p to Laing support.



Grosvenor Inns, up 3p to 247.5p, enjoyed a Merrilli Lynch endorsement. The investment house accompanied its buy advice with profit estimates of £1.9m for this year,

com consolidation gave BT a 12.5p lift to 637.5p but Cable Financials were back in

form. Legal & General added Scotland's impressive run continued with a 26.5p gain to were placed at 2p and closed 730p. Rea Brothers, a small at 2.75p. merchant bank, rose 7.5p to 62.5p after nearly doubled profits and an upbeat state-

Wolseley, the building materials group, remained under the whip of its disappointing interim results, falling a further 16.5p to 435p.

Football scorelines had an impact. Aston Villa's Euro Budget Day profits warning cup defeat pushed the shares

down 27.5p to 632.5p but Sheffield Utd's surprise FA Cup success prompted a 7p

gain to 43.5p. Two newcomers got off to good starts. Hartford arrived on AIM. It is a clothing importer with a hospitality side. Mike Edelson, a Manchester Utd director who masterminded the reverse takeover by Conrad of Sheffield Utd. and then floated Prestbury, now a Nick Leslau vehicle, is behind what would appear to 34.5p to 718p and Bank of be an acquisitive venture. He has 27 per cent. The shares

> On Ofex it was the turn of K-Bar, a company running four late-night drinking venues, including one which opened this month in London's Wardour Street. The shares were placed at 10p and closed at 18.5p.

Claremont Garments recovered 8.5p to 60p after a cut the shares 43p.

TAKING STOCK

Property developer Wiggins climbed 1p to equal its peak at 13.75p. Swiss buying was said to be behind the

The second secon

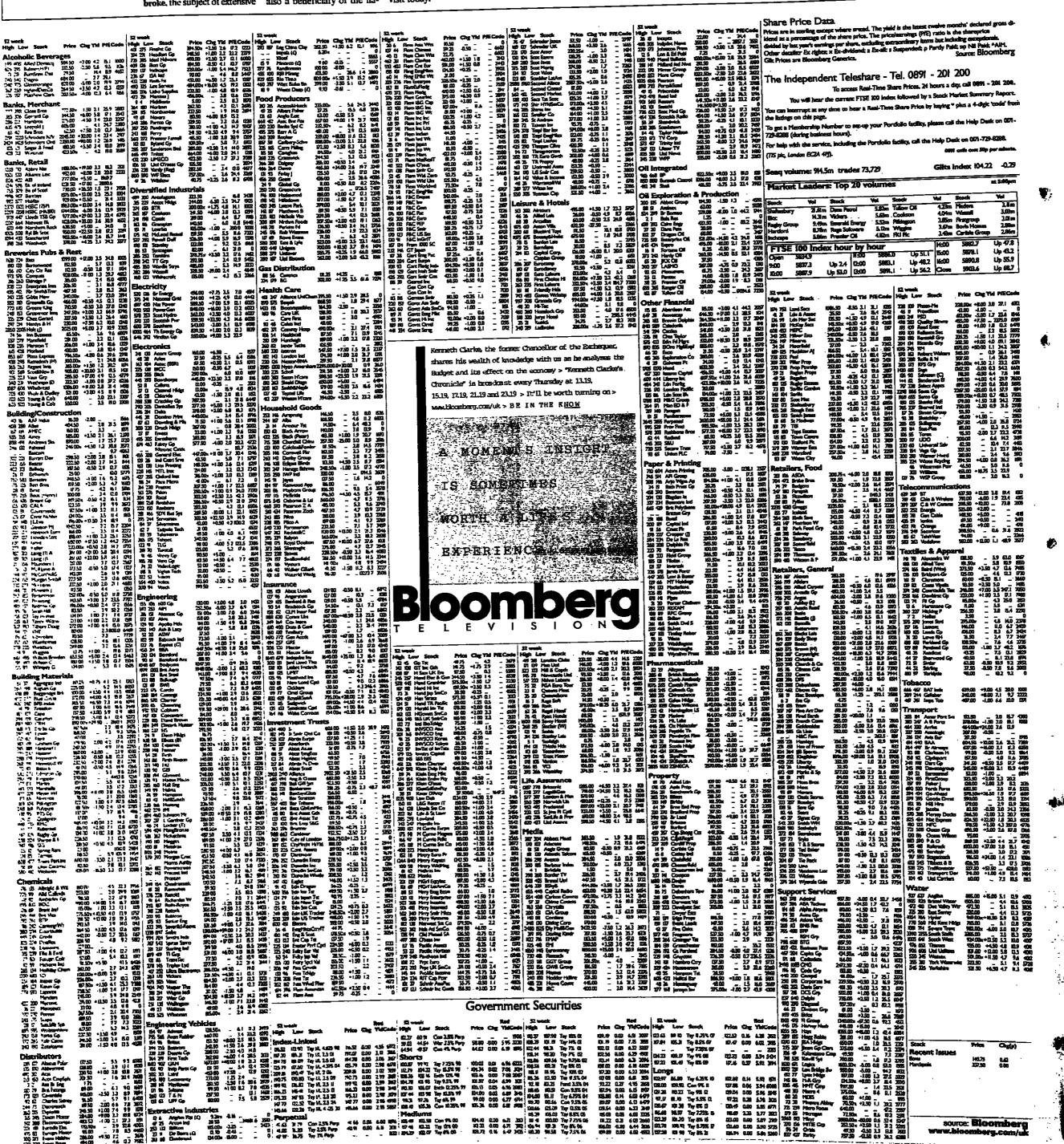
The group is known to be keen to extend its airport operations which currently embrace only Manston in

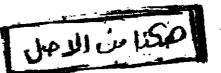
It is hoping to clinch deals to run around half-adozen continental airports and is keen on operating in

Hanover International, the hotel chain which is thought to have attracted the attention of Jarvis Hotels, held at 143.5p.

Stockbroker Greig Middleton expect profits to climb from £1.95m to £3.5m this year and then go to £4.1m. It puts assets at 219p

Radstone Technology fell 8.5p to 46.5p. It expects a loss, the third in a row. The company is raising £2.1m through a rights issue and placing





THURSDAY 19 MARCH 1998

How Brown has taken from the rich to give to the poor

JULIAN **MCRAE** AND JAYNE **TAYLOR** ON THE CHANCELLOR'S TAX AND BENEFIT REFORMS

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TUESDAY'S Budget marked a clear shift in the direction of tax and benefit policy. First, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, decided to redistribute income, against the trend of previous Budgets, from the rich to the poor.

On average, the poorest half of the population will be better off when all the Budget measures are implemented, while the richest half are going to see their incomes fall. And second, Mr Brown got down to the nitty-gritty of tax and benefit reform in a way not seen to this extent since Nigel Lawson left Number 11.

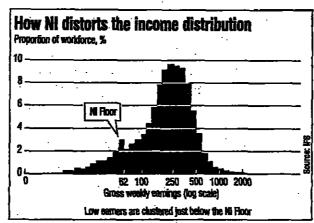
Perhaps the best illustration of these two trends was the changes announced to National Insurance, Like Nigel Lawson in the 1980s, Mr Brown used the Budget to remove some of the distortions from the system, in an attempt to enhance the operation of the much heralded flexible labour market. And, also like Lord Lawson, the current Chancellor took the opportunity to engage in some redistribution of the burden of National Insurance.

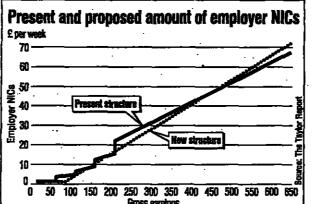
The remaining distortions in National Insurance arise primarily from the "entry fee" that becomes payable on all earnings once the lower earnings limit (currently £62 per week) is reached.

This is clearly illustrated by the example of an individual whose weekly earnings increase from £61.99 to the £62 lower earnings limit. Someone rently 10 per cent. earning £61.99 pays no national insurance.

If their earnings increase by 1p, they have to pay employee contributions at a rate of 2 per cent on all their earnings, generating an employee NIC liability of £1.24. At the same time their employer starts paying contributions at a rate of 3 per cent (or £1.86).

entry fee, a 1p rise in earnings of £3.10.





al insurance system introduces this or the last government's even more distortions with further discrete "jumps" where a higher rate of national in-

surance becomes payable on all earnings as earnings rise. The top rate of employer national insurance contributions is cur-Why should the operation

of the current system be of con- £81 per week. cern to the Government? The reason is easily illustrated by looking at the graph.

relatively smooth, the exception being the distinct spike just below the £62 lower earn-So, as a consequence of this ings limit.

leads to an increase in total na- the current system of NICs is year employers will have to pay tional insurance contributions encouraging wage "cluster- higher contributions than at ing" at these low earnings lev- present.

For employers, the nation- els, hardly in keeping with well-publicised objective of a flexible labour market.

In order to address this problem, Mr Brown removed the "entry fee" from both employers and employees. In addition, he announced that employer contributions would not start until earnings reached

The removal of the employee entry fee cost the Chan- in 1985. cellor just over £1bn. However, It is evident that, for the he funded the reductions in most part, the distribution of employer NICs by introducing weekly earnings in the UK is a single rate of 12.2 per cent on earnings over £81.

This rate is higher than the current top rate of 10 per cent and as a result for people This is proof positive that earning over about £500 a Chancellors of this century.

For example, the employer of someone earning £50,000 a year would pay about £1,000 extra in contributions per year. On £500,000 per year, the additional contributions would be over £10,000. As such, the Chancellor has ensured that his reforms will generate substantial redistribution from high to low earners.

All this fits very nicely into the Government's wider policy aim to "make work pay" for those on low wages.

Mr Brown also hinted at further reforms to come. He announced that the Contributions Agency, the part of government that collects National Insurance, was to be merged with the Inland Revenue.

In addition, he stated that in the long term the Government intended to raise the point at which employees start paying national insurance to £81 to match the change to employer contributions.

The £81 figure was not simply chosen at random, but is the weekly equivalent of the income tax personal allowance. Given that national insurance is a tax on earned income in all but name, it has long been the goal of tax reformers to integrate the two systems. Whilst this move hardly represents a full integration, it is certainly a move in the right direction.

The first major Budget from a Labour Chancellor in nearly 20 years has finally completed the process of removing the unhelpful distortions from the National Insurance system ~ effectively finishing off the series of reforms begun by Lord Lawson

But there is hope that Mr Brown will go even further, and finally bring about the integration of National Insurance and income tax. Were he to achieve this, Mr Brown would rightly take his place among the great reforming

The authors are researchers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



A DANGEROUS split at the very top of the Government exploded into the open this week as the Prime Minister's wife prepared to take on the Chancellor over his Budget.

Well, almost, Cherie Booth QC has agreed to represent family brewers Shepherd Neame in their court action against the Government over beer duty. which Gordon Brown put up by a penny a pint on Tuesday.

Not that Tony Blair's wife is going out of her way to bash her Downing Street neighbour. She only heard she might get the job on Monday, when a colleague in her chambers, Michael Beloff QC, warned he might be unable to make the Appeal Court hearing next week. Mr Beloff has been representing the independent Kent brewers in their action, funded by other family brewers in the UK who are incensed by the higher duties on beer here compared with the rest of the EU.

Mr Beloff has to attend urgent business in the US this Sunday, and the court unexpectedly refused to move its date to accommodate the visit. "This left us in an absolute pickle," said Stuart Neame, vice chairman of Shepherd Neame

Mr Neame said yesterday that Ms Booth would now have to get up to speed with a complicated case, centring on Articles 5 and 99 of the Treaty of Rome. "She's going to have a busy weekend," he said.

"The funny thing is, we had to wait for the Budget to find out what was happening [to beer duty], before we could go on....

"Originally, we applied for an appeal hearing in the High Court, but our written application was turned down, much to our amazement. So now we're making an oral application. We want leave to take the matter before the European Court of Justice," Mr Neame said.

The brewer is confident Ms Booth can win the day, given her record of handling Euro-Dean cases.

This won't be the last high profile and potentially controversial case she will be involved with this year. Ms Booth is set to defend over 200 former employees of BCCI, the crashed watching tennis!

bank, against legal claims by the bank's linuidators for the return of staff mortgages and the like. The role of the Bank of England is likely to feature prominently in the case.

No doubt Ms Booth will still be welcome in the environs of Number 11 and Threadneedle Street, whatever may be said in the heat of the court room.

THE FORMER chief executive of British & Commonwealth and director of Atlantic Computers who was disciplined this week by regulators over his role in the collapse of the two companies has a new life as a philosophy lecturer at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Peter Goldie was censured on Monday by the Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), and excluded from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, for, among other things, "approving Atlantic's 1988 accounts which were misleading ... and to have approved B&C's 1988 accounts which were seriously in error."

After the businesses went belly up Mr Goldie, who trained as an accountant straight from school, went to Oxford to take his first degree, in philosophy. He did so well that he eventually got a DPhil from Balliol last

Mr Goldie's interview to confirm his DPhil came on Friday, 19th September, before his appearance before the JDS the following Tuesday. The chairman, Sir John Bailey, opened the JDS proceedings with the declaration: "Congratulations, Doctor Goldie."

The then Mr Goldie had to demur, saying that the DPhil was not official yet.

Sadly, the tycoon turned philosopher was unavailable for comment yesterday. But surely his story proves there is hope for us all.

CORPORATE Charisma, a book by Dr Paul Temporal and Dr Harry Alder, which promises to tell you "how to achieve worldclass recognition by maximising your company's image brands and culture," has an introduction by The Honourable Sir Rocco

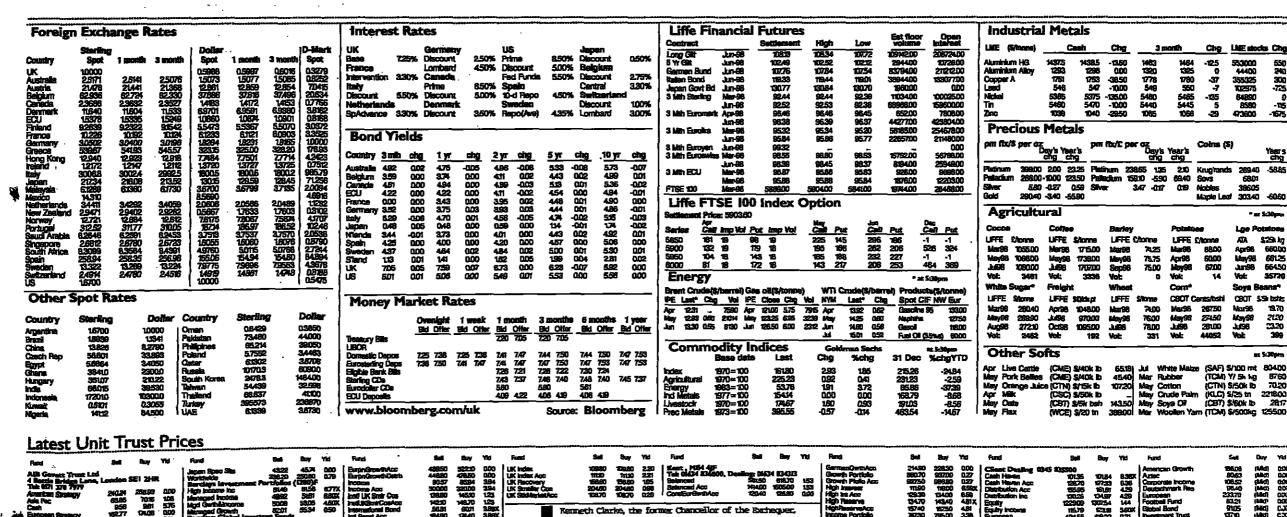
Sir Rocco writes: "The world is a much more competitive place than it was five years ago." Indeed it is. Wasn't it about then that Sir Rocco first heard about Granada's hostile bid for his family's business empire – while he was out shooting grouse?

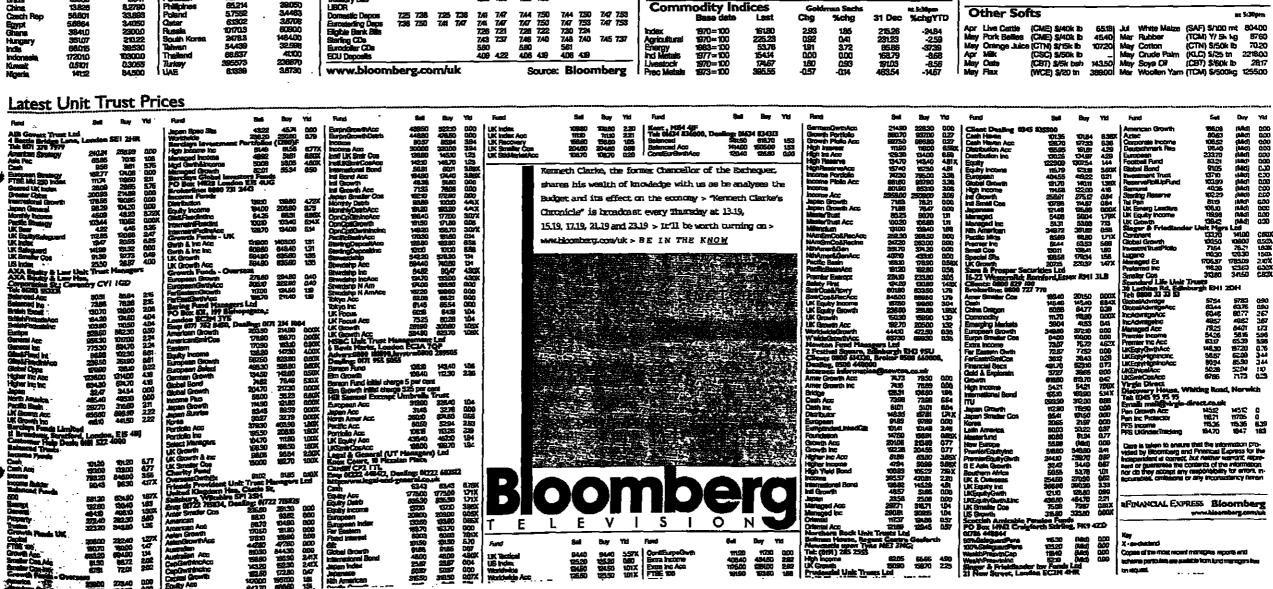
Nowadays, Sir Rocco opines: "businesses have to work harder." How true.

CROWE Insurance Group, which manages six syndicates at Lloyd's of London, is to sponsor "Butch", a 165 mph 1968 Z28 Chevrolet Camaro racing car. But Crowe will not be insuring the car itself.

"The car's owner, Tim Bowles, handles insurance for the car," says a Crowe spokesman. Butch is currently having its insurance renewed by IBEX motor policies at Lloyd's. The idea is that the monster car will carry the Crowe logo during races and will whisk brokers and VIPs around various high-speed circuits.

Quentin Crowe, head of marketing at Crowe, says: "The hospitality days we have planned should knock the spots off afternoons





Manninger celebrates coming of age

Glenn Moore talks to the young Arsenal goalkeeper who has excelled in David Seaman's absence

THE first time Arsenal tried to sign an Austrian goalkeeper he was turned away at Dover and had to forge a career in France. Sixty-five years later, the Gunners are grateful that Alex Manninger had no such problems when he came to Highbury

The 20-year-old goalkeeper produced the latest in a series of impressive performances in Arsenal's FA Cup quarter-final replay victory over West Ham at Upton Park on Tuesday. Manninger, deputising for the injured David Seaman, topped a string of brilliant saves in open play by crucially denying Eyal Berkovic in the penalty shoot-out.

Manninger has kept six successive clean sheets in the Premiership, yet Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, has already made it clear that as soon as Seaman is fit, Manninger will be dropped. "I do not believe in competition between gonikeepers," he said.

Manninger, it would seem, has no problem with that. "I came to Arsenal because David Seaman is the best goalkeeper in the world," he said yesterday. adding: "I know I still have to learn, to do so from him is the best education anybody can have. There can't be a better situation for a young keeper than being behind David Seaman.

'I am the first Austrian goalkeeper to play in England and it was a big, big deal to come but I knew I had to take it because these chances don't come along every day, I never thought I would be playing as regularly though, this is valuable experience for later in my career."

against Wolverhampton Wan-

Reading rule

TERRY BULLIVANT has

resigned as manager of Read-

Elm Park club dropped closer

to relegation from the First

Division with a 3-0 defeat at

Cola Cup carlier in the season.

Reading have the worst defen-

sive record in the First Division.

having conceded 66 goals, and

are currently second from bot-

joined Reading from Barnet in

June 1997.

season.

Oxford on Tuesday night. Although they knocked

ing. His decision comes after the a deal.

By Alan Nixon



Saying grace: Alex Manninger makes a crucial parry from Eyal Berkovic's penalty in the FA Cup quarter-final on Tuesday

bert Chapman tried to sign from Austria in the 1930s. failed. Hiden was refused entry by immigration officials and instead played for Racing Club in Paris. Manninger could also be headed across the Channel,

of West Ham United's Steve Lo- Wednesday even though, in ear- suspension for two matches.

clear yesterday. The Dutch- imum of 10 days' notice from the nine times already this term. But

man's three-match ban will in- Football Association to organize one of those was in the Coca-

derers at Villa Park on 5 April. to return for the home game pensions and another has been

drawn, there will be a silver lin- But the £7.5m striker is still in FA system which rewards play-

ing. The suspension starts a danger of a further ban. He is ers who complete five consecu-

The Football Association

agreement with the other mem-

hers of Group Five - Bulgaria,

Sweden. Luxembourg and

the way the meeting worked out.

have gone back on the agree-

ments they made, which means

don on I March.

THE price Dennis Bergkamp play, if necessary, is already

mas on Tuesday night became lier rounds, police require a min-

However, if that match is against Newcastle on 11 April.

Leeds United out of the Coca- Poland - at a meeting in Lon-

Manninger has succeeded but only temporarily. Already where Rudi Hiden, who Her- capped at Under-21 level, he is pushing for a place in Austria's World Cup squad.

Manninger said he had never been so nervous as he was before the penalty shoot-out though he had - unsuccessfully - faced one before in Europe you have to take his advice as and experienced team."

Bergkamp to miss Cup semi-final after red card

put him on eight yellow cards

Bergkamp has been booked

deleted under the experimental

England's hopes of making full the meeting will count for noth-til today to send us details of the

use of Wembley in their Euro ing, with a ballot conducted by fixtures. That limit cannot be ex-

Sources within European

football's governing body con-

sponsible for the breakdown

Discussions between the two

sides failed to find a way out of

the impasse and with the 60-day

limit for fixture scheduling run-

will now be forced to play ac-

A Uefa spokesman said yes-

cording to Uefa's timetable.

week on Tuesday, when Arsenal free to face Sheffield Wednes- tive matches without a booking. to Liverpool, which was due to it if it is fair to everybody."

visit Bolton Wanderers, five days day at Highbury a week on Sat-

before the semi-final, and a re- urday but a booking then would

will pay for his elbow in the face scheduled for the following for the season and incur another for dissent, and retaliation

corporate the FA Cup semi-final. their match-day security forces. Cola Cup which has no bearing backlog of fixtures which is pil-

2000 qualifying matches have Uefa tomorrow deciding in-

been dashed after their peren- stead when and where England

thought they had come to firmed that the Poles were re-

But the Poles, unhappy with ning out yesterday, England

nial rivals, Poland, reneged on will play their qualifiers.

So Bergkamp could be free on Premiership or FA Cup sus-

[the Arsenal coach] came to me in training and it worked and I with information beforehand, but you never know whether things like that are going to work out. You are by yourself really.

"David Seaman had shown

Vieira have already been fined

by Arsène Wenger this season

will miss key players for the

ing up at a frightening rate. Ar-

games to go - compared to

Manchester United's seven -

and now a new date for the trip

tended. Those groups where the

fixtures have not been organised

will be decided by us after the

draw for the semi-finals of the

three club competitions in Lau-

Graham Kelly, said after the

draw in Ghent in January that

he was hopeful England could

play as many of their home qual-

ifiers as possible at Wembley,

which closes in June 1999 for its

Last February's defeat by

£200m millennium refit.

The FA's chief executive.

sanne on Friday "

same heading.

against Internazionale. "Pat Rice he is a penalty killer. I tried it in these post-Bosman days, Arsenal may look to cash in on tried it tonight and it worked. The save from Berkovic was the Seaman - maybe even this summer - if Manninger continues key, I managed to get my hand to it and it was a wonderful feelto progress. The latter seems ing. We did so well with 10 men. me something in training and it was clear to see we are a good

nal day, must be found.

Wenger believes there is still

jected to his team having to fin-

World Cup or European Cham-

pionship qualifying defeat sus-

Robson's side were beaten by

David Davies, the FA's di-

rector of public affairs, said yes-

terday: "The majority of

countries were satisfied after the

some outstanding issues and we

understand these haven't been

resolved - which means every-

thing will now collapse.

Denmark in 1983.

certain given his attitude. "I have given up a lot in my life just to concentrate on my football, perhaps a lot more than other people. That's how I am, I can't change now. I'm a very straight guy. I do special Bergkamp and Patrick take place on FA Cup semi fitraining all the time and I am very self-critical.

Photograph: Allsport

It has been rumoured that,

"If I let a goal in, either in training or a match, I always the outside chance of an exwould seem to come under the tension to the League season look for my own mistakes and a subject over which he and Alex I beat myself up mentally to try Wenger's concern is that he Ferguson fell out last term and sort them out. It makes me when the United manager ob- work harder.

ish the campaign with four ing really gets me down. I just any risks in their European being completely negative, senal still have 10 League games in nine days. Wenger has want to work and work and no plans to make a similar apwork until there is nothing I can plication this time but said: learn. That is still a long way off, "There could still be a case for but now everyone knows I can play." Especially West Ham.

Bullivant ends Poland foil England's plan for Wembley matches grounds would not be fit for

home games between Decemtained by England since Bobby ber and March, but that is when we might have to play them." There is still a chance that the fixtures could fall right for England, allowing them to play their main rivals at home - and

meeting, and we were among therefore at Wembley - next them. We knew there were season. But the likelihood is that at of the 1999-2000 season, most "At the meeting, some of

least one of the key home games will be played at the start probably at Old Trafford, where the other countries told us the capacity of around 55,000 is tom of the league. Bullivant that all the decisions made at terday: "All the nations had un- Italy represented the first home that the weather meant their closest to Wembley's figure.

cause he was born there. He did

that he was happy to consider my

invitation. I've heard no more

from the player and I'm pre-

pared to hang in there for him."

intimate to me this afternoon

Inc 1997. Manchester City are ready to Evans watches Guivarc'h as France's striker hints at Premiership move

sign Jamie Pollock from Bolton Wanderers for £800,000, and ROY EVANS, the Liverpool manager, was watching with in- veloping away from Auxerre, could also sign West Bromwich Albion's Andy Hunt in a terest as French striker Stephane and said: "I want to experience £3(0),000 deal by the weekend. Guivarc'h scored twice for Aux-The Manchester United erre in their Uefa Cup match centre-back Ronnic Wallwork with Lazio on Tuesday night.

Guivare h is refusing to sign is joining Stockport County on loan for the rest of the a new contract with Auxerre, who are now out of European competition after being beaten 3-2 on aggregate by the Italians.

Jason Drysdale, who cost £340,000 from Newcastle in Guivare'h scored on his in-March 1995, has had his contract terminated by Swindon. ternational debut against South The 27-year-old has suffered Africa this season, having prochronic injuries and made only gressed from Brest, Guingamp 53 first-team appearances for and Rennes, where he scored 22 goals last season.

He clearly sees his career desomething different, and it is England that tempts me most, then Germany, then Italy."

Meanwhile, Liverpool's home match with Arsenal has been moved from Saturday 4 April to Wednesday 6 May, as the Gunners will be playing their FA Cup semi-final against Wolverhampton Wanderers that weekend.

David Johnson, the Ipswich striker, is at the centre of a threeway battle for his international services, Johnson, 21, is wanted

by Jamaica, where he was born, Carrow Road in December, cause I understand he has been England and Northern Ireland. Johnson qualifies to play for any approached by Jamaica as well, of the home nations because he which is their prerogative be-Lawrie McMenerny, the new manager of Northern Ireland, is a British passport holder has asked him to play in next who was born abroad.

week's friendly against Slovakia McMenemy revealed his at Windsor Park, but Rene predecessor and now Ipswich Simoes, coach of the the Regcoach, Bryan Hamilton, had helped him with Johnson and he gae Boyz, wants to call him up is hopeful that the former Manfor the World Cup qualifiers' mini-British tour against chester United trainee will give Queen's Park Rangers and Northern Ireland a chance. "I invited him to come with Wales, which starts on Saturday.

Johnson could also opt for us and I thought he was all right so we sent the letters off and foot of the table and have won England and he was on the bench for the Under-21 international against Greece at become a bit complicated be- games this season.

Stoke insist that their firstteam coach, Chic Bates, is to remain at the club, despite reports that he was about to be sacked. Stoke are two points adrift at the

everything else," he said. "But it's just eight of their 38 League cause of racist taunts from

Cup elimination

Villa finally

rediscover

self-belief

rating success from failure. In

the tips of a Spanish goalkeep-

er's gloves stood between Aston

Villa and a place in the last four

of a European competition for

Cup, with José Molina's crucial

squeezing Atletico Madrid

John Gregory as he plans for 1998-99 and beyond.

Stari Collymore, the most

all connected with Villa when

he remarked that the European

run had restored the players'

self-belief. He added, perhaps

a trifle richly given his modest

form since Brian Little lav-

manager's priority now should

players to the squad if we're go-

ing to get back into Europe next

season and start pushing for the

League. We need more quality

"We need to add a couple of

be to raid the market.

Elimination from the Uefa

the first time in 16 years.

TALK about a fine line sepa- Phil Shaw says the

late save from Lee Hendrie mation can be gauged from the fact that the last seven League through on the away-goals rule.

> suddenly living up to their potential. Collymore, for one, has gone from lethargic to lethal almost overnight.

sistant coach, John Gorman, he scored the winner as he did on ished £7m on him, that the new his previous appearance, against Liverpool. More pertinently for Villa's long-term prospects, he panicked Atletico's previously imperious defence with his strength and shooting power after coming on in the second half.

in depth," Collymore said. "If we can do that we can achieve what we set out to do this season." While Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, has promised that funds are available, the logic behind Gregory's appointment was that the club did not need a major rebuilding job, merely someone simultaneously fresh tract expires during the summer.

and familiar to bring out the qualities already present. During Gregory's threeweek crash course, in which they ed, and indeed coached until 17 have all but secured their Premiership status, wins against Liverpool and now Spain's "third force" have done much to suggest that the change has had the desired effect.

the quarter-final analysis, only Midlanders can draw much heart from the manner of their Uefa A measure of the transfor-

fixtures under Little produced effectively ended Villa's season. a solitary success and saw Vil-Yet there was much in their la turfed out of the FA Cup by 2-1 win on the night to hearten Coventry on their own ground. As often happens when there is a change at the top. certain under-achievers are conspicuous success, spoke for

Watched by England's as-

Hendrie, a peripheral figure during Little's reign, has also blossomed since receiving a sustained run. Steve Staunton, meanwhile, has demonstrated class and versatility that will give him increased bargaining power when Villa attempt to dissuade him from leaving when his con-

Gregory will use the remaining seven matches to assess whether the squad he inheritmonths ago, are capable of producing this form on a consistent basis. Players who perform only on high-profile occasions will, one suspects, be giv-

Vialli asks for a rare clean sheet

GIANLUCA VIALLI has told Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final first-leg advantage over Real Betis into a semi-final place.

Chelsea's player-manager, who sat out the victory in Spain two weeks ago, wants his team to concentrate on grinding out would be a wonderful result - a perfect result," he said. "And keeping a clean sheet would be the best way to go about it."

That is easier said than done and, if Vialli's vast experience of European competition with Juventus and Sampdonia has not are suspended, but are in good taught him that, he need only look back to the match in Spain for proof. Tore Andre Flo scored both Chelsea's goals before Betis had found their stride that night.

Chelsea's individually talented defence is collectively flawed, and Vialli's decision to play Ed de Goey only in Cup ties and Dimitri Kharine in the Premiership puts in question vital of their goal. They have not kept a clean sheet for eight games.

"We cannot set out to get a "I'm strong-willed and noth- his Chelsea players not to take draw with the Spanish team by Vialli said "We must still play at Stamford Bridge tonight our football and try to score with when they try to convert their 2-1 a counter-attack but above all we have to be concentrated and aware in defence. There must be no silly mistakes because there

have been too many of those." Vialli is still without his leftback, Graeme Le Saux, and the right result. "For me a draw Zola, Di Matteo, Wise, Duberry and Nicholls could all be handicapped by the knowledge that a caution would mean missing

the first leg of the semi-final. Betis are without the defender Roberto Solozabal and the midfielder Fernando, who form after moving up to fourth in the Spanish league with a draw against Atletico Madrid and a victory over Salamanca. They have a superb striker in Spain's Alfonso, who scored in the first leg, as well as the Nigerian Finidi George, and the Croatian

set-piece specialist, Robert Jarui. A clean sheet would be quite an achievement in the face of lines of communication in front such firepower.

Claims of racism rejected

PAUL D'MELLO, Dunfermline's general manager, yesterday reacted angrily to racist allegations against the club from their former captain Dave Barnett who left East End Park last week to join Port Vale on a threemonth loan. Barnett, the former Birm-

newspaper article that he was leaving Dunfermline was besome of the playing staff.

D'Mello, who is of Indian descent, said: "I have had seven happy years at this club. It is a family and community club, Everyone is welcome here, no matter their colour, creed or background. We totally refute this allegation of racism.

"We've had no complaint ingham defender, claimed in a from Dave about the way he was treated here and I will not launch a Spanish inquisition on the strength of an article. He told me he had to go for family reasons."

Football results

Auranomy
UEFA CUP Quarter-Rivels spaced leg: Astern
Villa 2 (Daylor 72, Collymore 35) Alleboo Madrid
1 (Carminot 28) (2-2 or) apprepait; Alleboo
Madrid with or a many gools); Ausern 2 (Guivmy'n 39, 801 Lozio 2 (Mancim pen 7, Gottardi
12) 1497 2-31; Scheller 1 (Goosster 90) intorreazonale 1 (West 82) (other seins bine; app.
1-21: Sportal Misscon 1 (Sheka 85) Ajax 0 (app.

4-1).
PA CUP Sight round replaye: Sheffed Utd 1
Holdsworth BS Covering 1 (Salar R) (Sheffed)
Usi son 3-1 on permises other even time and
play Newtocath or Out Trafferd in seint-finals,
West Ham 1 (Hurson 84) Around 1 (Areka 45)
(Arsene) work 4-3 on permises after even a new
and play Notices of Ville Park.
MATIGRAPHINE FOOTBALL I FACUR Since IV. and play Notices of Wile Park.
NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE First Di-vision: Oxford Unit 3 (Bosonichamp 44 70 Gray 77) Reading 0, Second Division: Warterd 2 (Palmer 5, Bazeloy 55) Carried 1 (Savens 55): Vidgo 1 (Loues 64 Southend 3 (Thomson 32 Partners 33, Whyte 87); Wheelam 1 (Roberts 9 Missell 0, Autro Winnerschitzene Sakel 6 March 1

69 Milwell 0. AUTO WINNSCREEMS SHIELD Northern Fl-ned Second Leg: Burnisy 0 Gensiby 2 (1, No-per 10 Donoten 57) (egg. 1-31, Southern Fland second leg: Boulmertsuth 2 (Evenz eg 55, Poling 62) Walsall 3 (Thomas 47, Boll 53, Tholar

(Archer dd. Smith GS. 7s. Whester as: speaking Challenge Cup sent-Haul ascond leg Woh-teg 3 (Wost 82 83 Betty 71) Hayen 1 (Randal 54) 1933 5-7). Fri hage Challe Premier Civisions Browley 2 Heyerdon Switts 2° Carshatten 0 Boston Wood 2 Creation 1 St Attura 2 Harvey 0 De-gertam & Recorded 5. Final Delations: Bognor Flores Shorston 0: Not Proposition of the 1 Labridge 0 Bilancey 0, Second Civisions Engine 1 Labridge 0 Bilancey 0, Second Civisions Engine me 3 (colling 6 Mitchan 0: Not-Swood 2

Leighton 1; Wiveninge D Banstead 2. Third Di-vision: Cemberky 3 Clapton 0; Conviner Ca-scale 2 Wingel & Finchers D Hentont 2 Onling O Vandasel Trophy semi-finals: Egitem 0 Bod-tord Town 1; Westdistone 0 Epsom 8 Ewell 1 ood Own 1; Wealdstone 0 Ecsom's Ewell 1 UNIBOND LEAGUE Premiser Division; Lech 1 Gamborough 0; Runcom 0 Coheyn Say 0; First Ohiston; Beber 4 Congleton 0; Greins 1 Fis-ton 1 Longous Cup semi-fined first lage Attri-chem 2 Chorley 0; UniBillia First Division Cup semi-fined first leg; Trafford 1 Beactord Park Av-erus 2 Second leg; Linchol Uni 0 Astron Uni 1 logg: 4-37.

PART DISTRIBUTED COUNTIES LEAGUE Promier Divisions Anitorial Significanter 1: Grastoy Powers 1 Heats and 2: A Corchester 4: Southern Divisions 1: Heats and 2: A Corchester 4: Southern Divisions 2: A Condoor 1; Margate 2: Fleet 1 ARROTT INSURANCE NORTHEFA LEAGUE Promier Divisions South Shocks 1 Geologion 3: UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Promier Divisions Buckforgham Town 2: Sewarts 8: LOYGE COTTY 0: Cognation 3: Workpart 2: Eyrochury 1: Marices Buckstone 0; Weitingborough 1: Statiod 2; Standoord 4: Bourne 2: A MORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE Frat Divisions Backpoor Rosers 1 Valuated GM 2: Densir 0: Chadderton 0; Maine Road 2: Sellord 1; Russonnala 1: Missignova 0: Chadderton 0; Maine Road 2: Sellord 1; Russonnala 1: Missignova 0: Chadderton 0; Maine Road 2: Sellord 1; Russonnala 1: Missignova 0: Chadderton 0; Maine Road 2: Sellord 1; Russonnala 1: Missignova 0: Chadderton 0; Maine Road 2: Sellord 1; Russonnala 1: Missignova 0: Chadderton 0; Mis WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Divisions

4; Stade Green O Herne Bay 2; Turbridge Wells G Erth Town C; Whitstable 2 Canastrury 1 G Brith Rown (), Whitstable 2 Carearbury (
UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE Plast Diviolen: Horstram YNICA 3 Liter-hampon 2;
Shopinan 1 Sahdean ().
SCREWING DRRECT LEAGUE Premier Division:
Bristol Manter Form 1 Chipperham 1; Bridgwetter 1 Rortnigten 1; Chief 1 Michigharm 1; Wastbury (7 Carlos 2 Lier Phillippe Cap quarrie-chairMongotsfeld 3 Briolond (I offer some Whe).
CENCOM RECTION LEAGUE Demaker Medicar-Neegotsmus Destroy u jaker ears area; JENSON EASTERN LEAGUE Promise Disjalon: Classon 2 Sudbury Wanderen 1; Feberhern 2 Go-lesion 1; Febern 1; Great Yermouth ©, Mewmer-tel 2 Wasteyer 1; Walton 1 Ely 2; Woodbridge 1 Wrog Wratern C. Rifferlank Express Midland Alliance Kings Norion 3 Stratford C, Knybersley 2 Wadnasfeld 2; Willenhall 2 Recessor D.

Sailing

WELSH CUP Quarter-Caprass 2.
LEAGUE OF WALES Gilbort Cup sent-final first ing: Bengor City 0 Ceemarion ()
PORTINS LEAGUE Punior Division: Blackourt 0 Dorby 1: Nothingham Forust 2 Presson 2. AYON INSURANCE COMMISSION First Di-vision: Assent 1 Totalinam 1. THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Rith-round replay: Crewe 1 Pelasborough 3.

Broken mast ends Edwards' non-stop world record attempt

By Stuart Alexander

A CREW of 12 women racing a giant catamaran in one of the most remote areas of the Southern Ocean came as close as they ... Horn, and 2,000 miles from the ... and the crew hastily cut away the would ever want to disaster vesterday.

A May Day call alcrted rescue services that the mast of the hurying both bows in the wave 92-ft catamaran Royal & Sun ahead, bringing the boat to a Alliance had crashed on to the shuddering halt," the skipper, twin decks, bringing to a dra- Tracy Edwards, said. "About five wards, who was chasing the nonmatic end the first all-women at-minutes later creaking could be stop record of 71 days 14 hours.

tempt to sail round the world heard from the mast and the The decision by Lawrie Smith non-stop.

The incident happened during the night as the yacht was being driven in winds gusting between 30-50 knots midway between New Zealand and Cape coast of Chile.

"A huge wave came up from behind, lifting the stern and

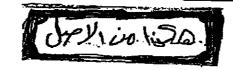
whole thing just crumpled and broke up as it hit the hull."

The crashing mast set off a distress signal which was picked up by Falmouth coastguards. However, no one was injured mast as it threatened to punch a hole in a hull. The boat will now head for Chile under jury rig.

"We are disappointed beyond belief as we were getting so close to Cape Horn," said Ed-

to hug the coast was paying dividends last night as the British boat, Silk Out, led the Whitbread Round the World fleet past Recife on the north-east corner of Brazil on day five of the sixth leg to Fort Lauderdale.

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (shift leg, 4,750 miles, Sho Sebestide, Brz. to Fort Lauderdelle, US): 1 SEk Cut (GB) L Smith 35-474 miles to finish; 2 innovation Kvaemer (Nar) K Forestid 23 miles behind leader; 3 EF Language (Seve) P Cayand + 179: 4 Cheete Facing (US) J Kosteck + 204; 8 Seinbe (US) P Standbridge + 28; 6 Eurael Sunergy (Nath) R Heiner + 282; 7 Merit Cap (Morasco) © Delton+285: 8 Sp Education (Swe) C Gulliou + 512; 9 Swedish Match (Swe) G Krantz + 53.



illa finally discover ilf-belief

Woodward counts on 'iron' Ryan

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

SIX weeks ago, John Mitchell was so appalled by the performance of the Red Rose forwards as they slipped effortlessly into reverse gear against the French in Paris that he felt moved to question their manhood. "You're too damned soft," snarled England's assistant coach before presenting his chastened charges with the following stark choice: either start kicking some rear ends or take up gardening

Well, there will be nothing soft about the England eight at Murrayfield on Sunday; indeed, Mitchell would be well advised to wear a hard hat in training over the next couple of days. Dean Ryan, the big had wolf of the Allied Dunbar Premiership, is back at No 8 for the first time in six long wilderness years and judging by the glint in his eye during yesterday's run-out at Twickenham, he will have to be physically restrained from rucking the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards off their own bagpipes.

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As befits a man raised in the ball-breaking rugby environment of New Zealand's north island, Mitchell looked well pleased with Ryan's sudden promotion from the back of beyond. "I think we're all aware that we're about to walk into an ambush, a hijack. at Murrayfield this weekend," he said. "The Scots are the sporting equivalent of a wounded animal and any side coached by Jim Telfer tends to be well up for the big occasion, so physical presence is going to be very important from our point of view."

If Newcastle United have a hard, niggly, uncompromising bag of trouble in David Batty, the Newcastle Falcons have their own heavier, elongated version in Ryan. Now going on 32, he squared up to all comers for both Saracens and Wasps before adopting honorary Geordie status a little over two years ago and it is somehow typical of the man that two of his three previous England caps should have been earned amid the blood-curding rugby maybem of a Buenos

"I can't say I've spent much time thinking about whatever England future I might bave," he said yesterday. "In one sense, you always feel you have an outside chance while you're playing Premiership rugby, just because you go up against current internationals every week of the season. Having said that, I half wondered whether the England scene might have passed me by. Once Clive Woodward called me into the squad last week, however, I considered myself in with a chance.

Sporting Digest

The Polish city of Bydgoszcz will stage the first world Under-18 cham-pionships next year Bydgoszcz, which hosted the 1979 European junior

championships, was chosen by the In-ternational Ameteur Athletic Federa-tion on the first day of a two-day council meeting yesterday in Mar-

NBA: Alfanta 117 Toronto 105; Denver 90 Washington 89; New York 100 Philadelphia 96; Orlendo 99 Vancouver 95; Chicago 90 Indiana 84; Dallas 99 Boston 93; Houston 96 Milwaukee 91; Phoenix 107 Secramento BC: Claveland 96 Pordand 92; LA Cippers 107 Golden State 102.

Athletics

my place in the team so you won't see a different Dean Ryan on Sunday, just because it's an international. Previous England coaches have tried to force things on me, but Clive wants me to play the game I play for Newcastle and that suits me fine. I'll try my utmost to be myself, to do what I do week in, week out. If I can achieve that. I'll be happy. It will be up to the coaches to decide whether I'm worth sticking with."

Ryan replaces the injured Saracen, Richard Hill, as one of four enforced changes to the side that put 60 humiliating points on Wales at Twickenham a month ago. "It was a close call, what with Tim Rodber and Tony Diprose in the frame," admitted Woodward. "However, I'm a great believer in looking at people in pressure situations and I need to see how Dean responds. I know a fair bit about the others: I started the season with Tony, who is still on the bench, and as for Tim, I've told him that I want more pace in his game,"

Woodward's other casualtyinspired tinkerings were more straightforward. Adedayo Adebayo returns on the left wing, four months after being told that he was not quite quick enough for Test rugby, while Matt Dawson fills in for Kyran Bracken at scrum-half. In the front row, Phil Vickery's shoulder injury gives Darren Garforth another chance at tight head.

There has been no such injury fall-out north of the border so Telfer and his fellow selectors agreed yesterday to keep faith with the starting line-up that could and should have accounted for Wales at Wembley. That gives the formidable Ryan an unexpected opportunity to test the mettle of three of his clubmates: Alan Tait, Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir. If they have any sense, they will call him "Sir".

ENGLAND (v Scotland, Sunday, Murray-tield): M Perry (Beith); A Heeley (Lelcester) J Guscott (Beith), W Streettend (Lelcester) A Adebayo (Beith); P Grayson (Northern-ton); M Dayson (Northern-ton); J Leonard ton), M Desseon (Northempton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockertil, D Gartforth, M Johnson (ell Leicesten); G Archer (Newceste), L Deslagilio (Wasps, capt), D Ryan (Newceste), N Beck (Leicesten); R Replacements: P De Glanville (Bath), J Waldneon (Newceste), S Benkon (Boucester), G Rownton (Leicester), D Ward (Leicester), D Growncock (Samoens), A Diprose (Samoens); T SCOTT AND, D Lee & Cocker, Scritish); J cock (Sereceris), A Diprose (Sereceris); SCOTLAND: D Lee (London Scottieri); T Stanger (Hawick), A Bell (Newcastle Febors), G Townsened (Northampton), F Longsteff (Duntise High School FF); C Chaimers (Nelrose), G Arambrong (Newcastle Febors, capt); D Hitton (Beth), G Bellioch (Nest of Scotland), M Stewart (Northampton), D Cronfin (Nesps), D Weir (Newcastle Febors), R Weinreright (Dundee HSFP), E Peters (Bath), A Rocchargh (Nelso), Replacements: H Gilmour (Heriots FP), C Murray (Hawick), A Nicol (Bath), B Poutney (Northampton), S Grimes (Nelsoniens), G Crehem (Newcastle Febors), G Ella (Currie).

 Scott Gibbs has withdrawn from the Wales side for Saturday's Five Nations' Championship game against Ireland in Dublin with a shoulder injury. Cardiff's Leigh Davies comes in to win his 17th cap, while "My club form has given me Davies' place on the bench. I they are spending more than able to recoup the funds if they their players handsomely, sev- of the season.

title at Bethnal Green's York Hall on Sat-

urday. The Lincoin cruiserweight will meet America's Brian Laspada in a re-vised main event on Frank Warrens

bil Laspada, a former North Ameri-can amateur champion, comes with

a professional record of 28 wins, six losses and two draws. Also on the bill

is the unbeaten Brixton heavyweight Denny Williams, who will face Jameicas



Whiter shade of grass: The groundstaff at work on the outfield yesterday at St John's, Antigua, where the sixth Test between the West Indies and England begins tomorrow

Lloyd confident that Antigua pitch will hold few terrors

THE England coach, David Lloyd, is unconcerned about the Antigua Test pitch, which has been relaid for the final Test which begins tomorrow. "This pitch has never been

THE Indian bowling pair of Jav-

agal Srinath and Anil Kumble

shot out Australia for a modest

total of 233 on the opening day

of the second Test in Calcutta

The Australians, thrashed by

179 runs in the first Test, faltered

again after their captain, Mark

Taylor, won the toss and chose

to bat on a seaming Eden Gar-

The vice-captain, Steve

vesterday.

dens wicket.

match 10 days ago on a pitch and obviously it would be difclose to it, and the ball went ferent for a Test match. through fairly nicely, by all ac-"I think there is a worry counts," Lloyd said. "The scores about how it will play, but it's were 210 and 206, and Mark a worry for the West Indies as Ramprakash's father watched part of the game and said the

runs. Australia were reduced to add 54.

29 for 4 within the first hour

after Srinath made a dramatic

start with two wickets in the first

over. Kumble then cut through

stomach cramps during his four-

hour vigil, missed his 15th Test

century by 20 runs when his run-

ner, Greg Blewett, was involved

in a mix-up with Gavin Robert-

Steve Waugh, stricken by

the lower order.

son soon after tea.

much as for us." England's players had a

surface looked quite good. But short fielding practice yesterday played on. They had a club that was only a two-day affair at their Antigua resort base, and

Kasprowicz made a career-

best 25 before fending at a

short ball from Saurav Gangu-

ly. Mohammad Azharuddin

completed a fine running catch

in the slips. Ganguly then

trapped Robertson leg-before

for 29 in the day's final over to

match the three wickets each by

After sending down a no-ball

Srinath and Kumble.

John's Recreation Ground today. Lloyd insisted spirit was good in the England camp, despite the disappointment of the drawn Test in Barbados, "We did fancy our chances to win there, and it would have been

they will practice fully at the St

Waugh's bold defiance delays Indians batsmen contributed just 13 batted for nearly two hours to Waugh saved the hat-trick but

Piret day: Australiae won toss
AUSTRALIA - First tenings
M J Steer c Drevid b Shresh
"M A Taylor c Mongia b Ganguly
G 5 Blevett b Smash
M E Waugh hav b Shresh
S R Waugh nun out

with his fourth delivery, Srinath Australia, who were 178 for had Michael Slater caught at Waugh, made a brave 80, shar- 8 at that stage, were saved from short leg off the fifth. Next ball, ing a 112-run stand for the further embarrassment by the fifth wicket with Ricky Ponting, ninth-wicket pair of Robertson pitched delivery to have his who made 60, but the top four and Michael Kasprowicz, who middle stump uprooted. Mark

he succumbed leg-before in Srinath's fourth over - then Tayior fell before the hour was up.

ieugh run out...... onting is Kumble..... lealy c Laxman is Ku ieme c Azheruddin is n Itw Ganguly..... cz c Azheruddia b Genguly

FI's fudge in debate over team orders

Motor racing

By Derick Allsop

FORMULA ONE drivers will have to be seen to be winning races in future - although subtle arrangements between teammates will still be permitted.

That appears to be the upshot of deliberations by the World Motor Sports Council, the policy-making arm of FIA, motor racing's governing body. in the wake of McLaren-Mercedes' 1-2 victory at the Australia Grand Prix earlier this month.

David Coulthard's extravagant gesture in slowing down and allowing through Mika Hakinnen, two laps from the end of the race in Melbourne, caused consternation among the local organisers and observers around the world. The Scot did it on the basis that the Finn beat him to the first bend at the start of the race. He explained that the two drivers had made that deal before the race.

Within the sport, team orders are considered perfectly acceptable and have been since the first wheel turned in anger. The problem this time was Coulthard's blatant concession of the honour. which may have served to make his point but which the FIA hopes now to eradicate.

Delegates decided at the meeting in Paris yesterday to inform race stewards that "any act prejudicial to the interests of any competition" should be penalised severely.

That seems to hand stewards the dubious and difficult responsibility of deciding when team orders bring the sport into disrepute. It is a classic Formula One verdict. McLaren will doubtless en-

sure any internal deal at the Brazilian Grand Prix, on Sunday week, is suitably camouflaged. The team's managing director, Ron Dennis, had cautioned against a "knee-jerk" reaction, stressing that any strategy devised in the interests of the learn was an age-old ploy.

McLaren will have another race to show their dominance. with the confirmation that the French Grand Prix will go ahead at Magny-Cours on 28 June after the settling of a dispute over television rights. A former world champion,

Nigel Mansell, could be on the verge of a racing comeback in the British Touring Car Championship. Ford are to announce tomorrow they have "attracted one of the greatest names in motor sport" to drive a Mondeo.

The 44-year-old Mansell was patently not deterred by a touring car accident at Donington in 1993 which put him in hospital. The opening round of the BTCC is at Thruxton on 13 April.

Davies chases her historic five-timer

Golf

By Andy Farrell

THEY are calling it a potential "five-peat", a phrase almost as unlovely as the Standard Register Ping, the name of the tournament on the LPGA Tour that Laura Davies will attempt to win

Davies became the first woman to win a professional years when the former world No l beat Kelly Robbins in a playoff at Moon Valley, in Phoenix, last year. Only Walter Hagen and Gene Sarazen can match the feat from the men's game.

Should Davies achieve the historic victory, local Arizona charities fighting domestic violence and child abuse will benefit by \$1m (£625,000), while the 34-year-old Englishwoman will receive a \$300,000 bonus on top of the first prize of \$127,500.

It was almost 70 years ago that Hagen attempted to win the USPGA Championship, then a matchplay event, for a fifth time but lost by two holes in the quarter-finals to the eventual champion, Leo Diegel.

Sarazen never got the chance to win the Miami Open for a fifth time. From 1931 the tournament changed format and was not recognised on the schedule.

Davies, Britain's highestearning sportswoman, has dominated the Moon Valley course. one of the longest on the woman's circuit, thanks to her big for a record fifth time this week. hitting. But after winning 24 times around the world from tournament for four successive with her nutting over the last year and fallen behind Annika Sorenstam, Karrie Webb and Robbins on the world rankings.

> She said recently: "Last year was frustrating and if I keep playing and putting the way I did last year for another two or three years. I'll be sorely tempted to find another occupation."

If missing the cut at last week's tournament in Tucson was not the best preparation, it might prove a good omen since Davies did exactly the same last year. On the other hand, should victory be delayed a week Davies may not mind. The Nabisco Dinah Shore is the one US major Davies has yet to win and the Mission Hills course is her favourite in America.

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MARKET MARKET STATE OF THE STAT

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ialli asks for a

are clean sheet

Super League clubs' funds blocked for breaching salary cap half their income on players' could demonstrate that salaries eral will be vulnerable to

Rugby League

A CLUTCH of Super League

biggest of the lot, have had mon-

League's new salary cap.

Around half the elite clubs

ments from News Corporation

By Dave Hadfield

The League has a policy of not naming the clubs involved. but it is understood that Wigan clubs, including Wigan, the are the worst offenders. Their have strengthened their squad outlay on salaries is estimated and have signed one of the ey withheld for breaching the to be between 60 and 70 per game's biggest names, Wencent of income, which would mean losing more than half of tract for 1999 and 2000. their £65,000 monthly cheque.

have seen their mouthly pay-

ZIMBABWE - Second lankings 302 for 4 dec (M W Goodwin 168no, A Flower 100no).

PAKISTAN - Second Impings (Overnight: 24 for 0) Seeed Anwar c Goodwin b Strang ... had shifted to within the cap, but Wigan are questioning the system.

With the backing of the millionaire Dave Whelan, they dell Sailor, on a £500,000 con-

The club's chairman. Mike The League's spokesman, Pe-Nolan, has warned that, if they Llanelli's Neil Boobyer takes cut for the first time, because ter Rowe, said clubs would be are prevented from rewarding their affairs in order by the end

Crewe have signed the Nottingham Forest striker Steve Guinan on a month's loen. They have been looking for a striker since Dele Adebota joined Birmingham earlier this year. Guinan has made only two full appearances for Forest this season.

The Crewe midfielder Gareth Whalley has been called up to the Republic of Ireland squad for Wednesday's friend-

ly against the Czech Republic in Olo-mout. The 24-year-old qualifies for the Irish as his mother was born in Dublin.

approaches from rugby union. The League yesterday defended its policy. "Clubs have been consulted at every stage and we are confident that we

have a mandate," Rowe said. Under the regulations, there is a sliding scale of punishments for exceeding the cap. The money will be confiscated permanently if clubs cannot put

first of the Inter-Services games at RAF Halton yesterday. INTER-SERVICES TOURNAMENT (RAF Halton): First Day: Mar: RAF 1 Army 3, U-23: RAF 5 Army 5, Veterance: RAF 5 Army 3, Women: Royal Navy 0 Army 5.

NHL: Chicago 5 Buffelo 3; Detroit 4 Ed-monton 3; Vancouver 4 Flonda 2; Dellas 4 Los Angeles 3.

Ice hockey

Pools news

Dunbar Premiership victory over title contenders Newcastle last Saturday. The former Wigan rugby league player will miss Hichmonds Premiership games egainet Leibester on 28 March and Bristol a fortnight later, in addition to Wales' line! Five Nations Championship first putits Fersene et A. Accil. ship fixture with France on 5 April. ship fixture with France on 5 April. ENGLAND A SQUAD (v Scotland A, Edinbrugh, tomorrow): Becker C Cetting (Gos). J. Lowesey (Bristo). B. Johnson (Giss). D. Chapman (Richmond). M Allen (Northernoton). N Gravenstock (Wasps). M Shew (Novcette), R Buttern (Bestin). P Richards (London Irish). C Harrison (Crrell: Forwards: G Chutter (Semicens). M Regam (Batth). V Ubogu (Beth). D Bernse (Newcaste). N Malest (Beth). M Cornwell (Glos), R Fidler (Gos). C Gibbs. Richmond). R Johnson (Fellow). P Sanderson (Sele). R Wisters (Bectlord). 9 Clarice (Richmond) capt.

SPRING GRAND TOURNAMENT (Osako): (11th day): KyoSutscho (Won 4. Lost 7) bl. Asanosho (6-5); Asahiyutska (7-4) bl Kitaka-chidoki (6-6); Hamanoshima (8-5) bl Mainourri

(3-8); Akinoshu (6-5) bi Kotomuzuma (4-7). Mi-tolaumi (7-4) bit Tamakasuga (5-6); Manatoku-(3-6); Akinoshu (6-5) of Kolomicalims (4-7), Na-locium (7-4) bt Tamakasuga (5-5); Mandoku (7-4) bt Cojoro (6-5); Ogmishid (6-5) bt Asanowaka (6-5); Higonoum (8-3) bt Verac Gustuzan (4-7); Kotoryu (3-8) bt Terac (3-6) bt Akinoshmas (6-5); Gunyu (3-8) bt Shidishima (2-9); Chryotokia (7-4) bt Kao (6-5); Musoyama (7-4) bt Kotonshida (4-7); Musashimaru (7-4) bt Tochmowaka (4-7); Wakanohama (11-5) bt Tochmowaka (4-7); Rakanomari (7-4) bt Molamop (3-8), Akabono (9-2) bt Kotonowako (6-6).

Tennis Greg Rusedski, the British No 1, has been seeded fifth for the Lipton Champlonships at Key Biscayne in Rorida, starting today. The top eight men's seedings follow the world rankings for the tournament which boasts the binnest entry outside the Grand the biggest entry outside the Grand Stem events. Rusedski rose one place after reaching the final of the Newsweek Champions' Cup in Indian Wells, California, last week.

SKI SNOW REPORTS

AROUND THE RESORTS

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Ski Snapshot

At a glance to snow conditions at over 200 resorts world-wide 0897 500 601

in association with N EWSTEL

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x reports 0897 500 086 + code	BULGARIA Parsporovo	Fresh snowthard-paded base	100s	17.3	70	20	Broken döud
or a full list of all sid codes by	CANADA	Firm radeal snow	100%	63	90	205	Pt Cloud)
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FIRST TEST (Bulawayo, final day): Zim-tebus draw with Pakisten. WOMEN'S HOME INTERNATIONAL TH-DOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Durlington): Eng-DOOR CHAMPIONSHIP (Derington): Bro-land bt Wales 195-78 (Fig. stops first: M Steels bt W Moris 25-78; J Roylence bt B Mor-gan 19-14; M Price bt M Tenner 27-70; N Shaw t M Simmonds 32-95; B Ablerson bt D Row-lands 29-9; D Henkin bt G Miles 21-17. Zimbebwe won tosa ZIMBABWE - First Innings 321 (G W Flower 156, H H Streak 53, Waqar Younis 5-106). PAIOSTAN - First lunings 256 (Yousel Youhana 60; G J Whittell 4-63).

Bowls

Cricket
A fifth-wicket century stand between Yousa's Youhana and Moin Khan enabled Pakistan to salvage a draw against Zimbabwe on the final day of the first feet in Bulkeayo. The two put on 110 in five minutes short of three hours to guide Pakistan to safety at 258 for 6 in their second innings. Youhana scoring 64 and Khan 97. With Zimbabwe needing four wickets and Pakistan another 118 runs to win with only 7.3 overs remaking, the captains

Wearington 89: New York 100 Philadelphia
96: Oriento 99 Vancouver 92; Chicago 90
Indiana 84; Dallas 99 Boston 93; Houston
96 Milwakes 91; Phoraix 407 Seoramento
80: Geveland 86 Portland 82; LA Cispers
107 Golden State 102.

Boxting
Kelly Oliver will defend his World Boxing Organisation Inter-Continental

Billiands
STRACHAN BRITISH OPEN CHAMP(Onsthering Inter I

Total (107 b, 1625 Overa) 20 Fail: 1-28, 25-4, 3-70, 4-80, 5-190, 6-258. Bowling: Street: 18-6-42-3; Mbengwa 22-13-23-1; Strang 27-3-59-1; G Whittel: 18-5-61-0; A Whittel: 8-3-28-0; Goodwin 2-0-3-0; Viljoen 33-0-14-1.

Vigori 32-0-9-1 Umpires: (Acbinson (Eng) and D Shepherd (Eng). The Warwickshire batsman Andy Moles has signed a one-year contract to coach South Africa's Supersport Champions, Free State, next winter. The 37-year-old opener has been ap-The 37-year-old opener rise been ap-pointed first-team coach in Bloem-fontein after working with their B squad for the last two seasons. Moles will take up the offer before returning home for his 13th season with War-wickshire. He is recovering from a se-fere Addition letter but homes to be rious Achtles injury but hopes to be fit for the first chempionship match

Drugs in sport Lawyers for six sports officials ac-cused of Involvement in East Germeny's doping programme asked a court in Berlin yesterday to throw out

egainst Durham on 17 April '

Irish as his mother was born in Dublin. NATION/MIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE Re-arranged Ratures: Tue 31 Mar: Oldham v Bristol City (from 6 Mar), Tue 21 Apr: Ley-ton Orient v Sourthorpe (from 3 Jan), Tue 31 Mar: Darlington v Strawesbury (from 10 Mar), Fri 10 Apr: Charlinon v Resoling (fram) (from 11 Apr), Tue 28 Apr: Tranmere v Sheffield Util (from 7 Mar), Postponed fin-tures: Sat 4 Apr: Crewe v Sheffield Util, Sat 18 Apr: Carlisle v Grinsby; Wattlord v Bournemouth, FA Carling Premiership: Postported finture: Sun 5 Apr: Liverpool v Argenda. Jack Nicklaus has accepted a special exemption, offered on Monday, to play in the US Open and extend his se-quence of successive majors to 145.

This year's Chemapol Czech Open, one of the European Tour's richest tour-naments, has been cancelled at the request of the sponsors because of flood-related disasters in the Czech Re-public last summer. The £800,000 tournament's slot on the schedule, from 6 to 9 August, could well now go to the German Open at a venue to be

Guy Fordham, who England bedly need for their World Cup campaign in May but will be missing because of his final medical exems, was outstanding as the Army beat the RAF 3-1 in the

Today's fixtures

Football

C-15 traces panels

EIROPEAN CLP WHENERS' CLP

GUARTER-FINAL SECOND-LEGS

Chelsea (2) v Real Beds (2)

VIB Stuttgart (1) v Stevia Progue (1) (7.30)

VIO NORZE (6) v Rode JC Kerlands (5) (4.6)

RYMAN LEAGUE FAIL Members' Cup fourth
round: Cardration v Meldenheed (730) AVON RISURANCE COMBINATION First Di-visions: Norwich City v Charleon Athletic

THE TIMES FA YOU'TH CUP Fifth yound: Eventon v loswich Town (70). Rugby Union

CLUB MATCH: Kalao v Langholm (7.5). Baskerball

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: London Leopards v Crystal Palace (730). Other sports BOWLS: Women's British Championships

Pools news LTTLEWOODS Troble chance: 22pts 54;8445; 22 5:42-40; 27 528:75; 29 5:40 hair time result: 24pts (max) 5:47:28000 Four draws 52300 Mine house: 55.5 Fave sways: 530.25 (paid on four). VERNORS Troble Chance: 23 pts 542:854.25; 22 5204; 21 529:85, Premier 10; 543.25. 22 11:ERS (chividends for matches played 14 March): Truble chance: 23pts 55:265.5, 22 5380, 21 5400, 20 5050, Four draws: 53400 Eight house: 5400 Four everys: 50;50.5 All draws truble chance (from 11 draws): 23 55:565.2 2 5:656. Fab. Swe: 54070, Lucky regelerate 9 8 7 34 26 %. Sumo Rugby Union

Richmond yesterday suspended their Wales and British Lions forward, Scott Quinnell, for four matches, Quinnell, the No 8, who has also been fined, was sant off by English referee Ed Morri-son during Richmond's 30-17 Allied

TODAY'S

NUMBER

The number of succes-

sive years for which Essex have made a profit. The county announced a surplus of £24,032 yesterday, £40,000 down on lest year, the figures for which included capital gains on sale of investments. Subscriptions from 7,402 members was £20,000 higher at £341,060, while proceeds from matches increased by £19044 to £200.813.

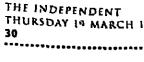
Win tickets to the Coca-Cola Cup final at Wembley

Middlesbrough will be seeking revenge for their defeat in last season's FA Cup final when they meet Chelsea again at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final on 29 March. Can Bryan Robson's team turn the tables on Gianluca Viaili's men?

The Information Service is offering a pair of upper grandstand seats plus refreshments for one of English football's great showpiece occasions. To win the prize call 0930-563442 and leave your answer to the following

Which Middlesbrough player has just won a recall to Glenn Hoddle's England squad?

Lines close at midnight tonight. Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. Winners will be notified tomorrow. Please make sure you leave a daytime telephone number





Hill of dreams: One Man conquers his aversion to Cheltenham's uphill finish as he comes home alone in yesterday's Queen Mother Champion Chase

Giant step for Man on a mission

menu at Cheltenham vesterday. but great dollops of it were being served up in the winners' enclosure. First, that great big teddy bear One Man strolled up the hill to rout the best two-mile specialists either side of the Irish Sea, bringing a smile as broad as the Cumbrian hills to the face of his trainer, Gordon Richards, confined to barracks at his Grevstoke base. No sooner had the Queen

Mother presented the £94,000 prize to One Man's connections and ridden off in her golf buggy than the winners' berth was filled by the most infamous horse in racing. Top Cees, star all along. Twice a failure in the of Court 13, silent witness in the Gold Cup, he returned to a discelebrated case of the Sporting tance not travelled since his injury to his best friend, Tony we could keep it up," Harding Life's the Ramsdens. The press novice hurdling days and tri- Dobbin, brought him a phone said. "But I gave him a little room waited for the Channel 4 interview with scarcely disguised relish: "Tell us a little on Boxing Day. "He is a really about this horse, Mrs Ramsden..." "Well, Derek..."

One Man left emotions scattered across Cleeve Hill. This is the horse who was scheduled to fill the public vacuum left by the retirement of Desert Orchid all these years ago only to suffer the disdain of the cognoscenti and

HUMBLE pic was not on the Andrew Longmore samples the highs and blows of the Festival where two famous horses let their talent do the talking

the scorn of impecunious pun- finish as he returned on the wellwas labelled, but not Prestbury the Cheltenham hill. "A question no one can really answer," Nicky Richards, son of the trainer, said of the gaping hole in One Man's curriculum vitae. One Man provided his own

emphatic answer yesterday. There was no Cheltenham voodoo nor lack of guts. He had been entered in the wrong race umphed with a swagger usually reserved for the King George high-class horse," added Richards. "We always knew he'd come back and win good races."

One of the doubters had to watch the procession from an uncomfortable distance. You could have forgiven Richard Dunwoody the sideways glance he gave the video rerun of the

Roofer

required.

Apply Cheltenham

racecourse.

(Ireland's Dorans Pride: 11/4.)

TOTE CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

3m. 21/if Cheltenham 3.15pm. Live on CH4.

ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE

5m. 1f Chattenham 2.00cm, Live on CH4.

likese prices may have changed skeen lisks sewapaper was prioled. For the wary talest prices, page Ladbroken Teletext 506/5 (Ch4).

Ladbrokes

For the Festival, Ladbrokes are favourite.

25/1 Cool Dawn

28/1 Couldn't Se Better

33/1 Simply Dashing 66/1 Senor & Betrutti 66/1 Strath Royal

158/1 Indian Tracker

40/1 Scoss

50/1 Amitge

50/1 Robbo

50/1 Krls Green

50/1 Real Estate

66/1 Tough Act

100/1 Swing West

150/1 Copper Shell

150/1 Wortcostalothu

150/1 Shalaal

66/1 Another Night

66/1 Running de Censy

66/1 Tyrolean Dream

F0990 624 624

7/Z See More Business

7/1 Cyborgo

10/1 Suny Bay

12/1 Addington Boy 12/1 Go Baltistic

16/1 Strong Promise

9/2 Zafarabad

5/1 Daragour

10/1 Nomadic

14/1 Upgrade

20/1 Spow Dragos

33/1 Vent d'Aout

7/1 Buddy Marvel

12/1 Iron County Xmes

25/1 Supply And Demand

14/1 The French Furze

ters. A park course champion, he beaten Irish challenger, Klairon Davis, "Nothing would surprise Park. Unbeatable round the flat me about One Man," the foracres of Kempton, beartless up mer champion had said in the morning. "We've had some great times together." In the winners' enclosure, Brian Harding barely had enough breath to explain the twists and turns which had led him to the greatest day of his riding career and,

in the way of National Hunt rac-

ing, to the swift erasure of the

darkest year of his life.

Resigned to watching the call at Sedgefield on Tuesday, a gruff message from Gordon Richards - "don't let me down, with a difference. For most of last year, Harding was compulsorily laid off by the Jockey Club having suffered severe concussion in a fall. His time had been spent "doing his two", in racing parlance, on cold mornings at

PEOPLE who have never

risked anything on a horse -

and lost, and cursed, and

shouldered back through the

milling throng to bet the next

race - will never understand

what it is that makes the sport

us are in the process of selec-

tion, usually serving up our

worldly goods in failed at-

tempts at inflicting superficial

wounds on the bookmaking

fraternity, racing isn't just

about cashing a bet or (most

commonly in my case) tearing

McManus is thought to have

when his colours were carried

home brilliantly by Istabraq in

the Champion Hurdle on

Tuesday. But, in the main, any-

body who supposes that bet-

ting on horses can be made to

pay on a regular basis should

check the cost of storing their

breed love to suffer. It seems

that they are never happier

unless they are miserable -

shiny in the seat and tissue-

thin in the sole, unable to find

a winner to back, stony broke

and sinking hopelessly deep-

night-club performer, the late

Joe E Lewis, built an act

around his gambling addiction.

Some specimens of the

The fêted Irish punter J P

up a ticket.

furniture.

er into debt.

Uneducated as many of

so fascinating, so exciting.

out One Man, imagining a day like yesterday. "Gordon stood by him like a father," Michael Caulfield, head of the Jockeys' Association, said. The story of the race is sim-

ply told. From the tape, One

Man and Ask Tom turned a champions' field into a private one of the biggest rails bookduel. For half a circuit, they makers, said on the opening matched thrilling strides until the favourite broke, hampered by an "interrupted preparation" according to Tom Tate, his trainer, leaving One Man to tackle the Another eloquent day for the hill alone. We were going a right talking horses today and the race at home on television, an gallop and I wondered how long bookmakers will be left speechbreather going up the hill and on a breathtaking Festival day when he quickened again, I should belong to a detached obthought, If they pass me, they'll server of the big race. Forced to will you"- and an armchair ride be doing well here.' Or Royal retire from the saddle after a car came closest, but four lengths crash, Francie Woods had to was still a handsome response to the critics. Further back in fifth dock instead of partnering Kla-

well-deserved retirement. Dunwoody's moment was easily have meant the whole, Richards's yard and, as he rode not long delayed. But the cheers tortuous, ritual of the Festival.

Sunk punters swept up

in the thrill of winning

which greeted a handsome victory by Florida Pearl in the Royal & SunAlliance Chase must have resembled a dirge for the bookmakers. Istabraq, Unsinkable Boxer on St Patrick's Day; French Holly, a deeply impressive winner of the Royal & Sun Alliance Hurdle, and Florida Pearl yesterday. "One of the worst days I've ever known at Cheltenham," Victor Chandler, night, which perhaps explains the niggardly 8-1 offered on the Willie Mullins-trained Florida

Pearl for the 1999 Gold Cup.

less as well as penniless. The final thought, however, watch the big screen by the padplace came the valiant Viking iron Davis. "I just felt Flagship, who will now enjoy a desperate," he said. He was talking about the race, but he could

the financial disappointments.

Not since Dawn Rum's hero-

ic triumph in the 1986 Gold

Cup has there been such cel-

ebrations at Prestbury Park,

more moist eyes in the un-

take kindly to identification,

was on Istabraq at odds bet-

ter considerably than the 3-1

starting price, but his anxiety

This touches on an aspect

of racing that seldom registers

cess, the sight of Jonjo O'Neill

Similar expressions of ad-

One thought was that even

people who deem an interest

A friend, who would not

saddling enclosure.

two handfuls of losing tickets before the race was just as eas-

into the audience and shout. its explained by an emotional

"A thousand bucks for props". attachment to the horse's con-

great world heavyweight talented young trainer, Aidan

era. "Just bigger bets," he ing back to Dawn Run's suc-

players can get no more valu- tenham's punishing hill, I re-

able advice than to steer clear member the joy expressed by

of unreliable witnesses (jock-eys figure prominently in this "What a performance," he

category) and stick with the bellowed, pounding my back

plan they set out with, ignor- in excitement, "what a bloody

damental rule led to my down- miration came from losing

fall on Tuesday when seeking punters on Tuesday when

winners to go with a tickle at Charlie Swan pressed the but-

Istabraq that turned out hap- ton taking Istabraq clear to win

pily. From being firm in the be-by 12 lengths and justify lief that Martin Pipe would win O'Brien's belief that there

the Arkle with Champleve was nothing in the race that

However, Istabraq's splen- in racing evidence of arrested

ing all subsequent information. performance".

Big bets or small, horse driving a brave mare up Chel-

champion, Joe Louis, was O'Brien.

once prompted to imagine

the riches that would have

taken £500,000 out of the ring come his way in the modern with the general public. Think-

said wearily, "just bigger bets."

Failure to observe this fun-

A celebrated American and the last with Unsinkable could live with the favourite.

Boxer I was put off by con-

Coming on stage to a cry of did victory and the sentiment development would have

"Post Time", he would scatter that surrounded it made up for found the sight thrilling.

Lewis' near namesake, the nections, especially its hugely

Another nice little earner by **Top Cees**

By Greg Wood

AS SOMEONE pointed out afterwards, the biggest surprise about the success of Top Cees in the Coral Cup Handicap Hurdie at Cheltenham yesterday was that the horse at the head of the weights, Allegation, did not finish second. Just a few weeks ago, Top Cees was the focus of a dramatic libel action in the High Court, during which Derek Thompson, the Channel 4 presenter, claimed that Kieren Fallon, the champion Flat jockey, had admitted stopping Top Cees in a race at Newmarket in 1995. Yesterday, the horse re-

claimed his place in the head-

lines, while the Channel 4 crew

kept their distance. The libel action, which fascinated the racing world for almost three weeks in February, ended in victory for Fallon, Lynda Ramsden, Top Cees' trainer, and her husband, Jack. They had sued the Sporting Life over an allegation that they had been "cheating" when the horse finished fifth in the Swaffham Handicap at Newmarket in 1995. The claim was published following Top Cees* easy win in the Chester Cup, a few weeks after the Swaffham. They won their case, and were awarded a total of almost

£200,000 in damages. As a result, Top Cees is possibly the most famous horse in training, though not, it would seem, the most popular. There were boos sprinkled amid the applause as the horse returned to the unsaddling enclosure, and his reception was, by Festival standards, a muted one. Top Cees started at 11-1, although the Tote paid almost 17-1.

The Ramsdens were understandably delighted with the success, for which Barry Fenton, his jockey, deserves much credit. Fenton was towards the rear for most of the race, but timed his challenge to perfection, hitting the front as they jumped the final flight.

"Top Cees is the love of my life after Jack," Lynda Ramsden said. "He is such a comical character. We only have two jumpers, so it is great for a Flat trainer to be able to take on the best National Hunt trainers." Jack Ramsden, who is well

known for his substantial and successful raids on the betting ring said that he had had "a little bit" on Top Cees, but "I just wanted to see him do it. He is one of the family and he's been a good carner in many ways."

Channel 4 television, severai of whose employees gave evidence in the libel trial, did not request an interview with the winner's connections.

Top Cees is not expected to run over hurdles again this season and may now attempt to win the Chester Cup for a third time at the course's big May meeting.

Big race field

3.15 CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £225,000 added 3m 2f 110yds £130,500

5 2014-P COULDN'T BE BETTER (63) (C) (D) Thyo 'test _D Gallagher Owner: R A B White: Trainer: C Books
Form: Led from their lesse until efter 15th, soon veeleaned and pulled up two out bethed Rher Mandale and Seath Royal (25th worse) in Montdon Handing Charse at Waterboy (2011), and (2011) worse) in Montdon Handing Charse at Waterboy (2011), and (2011) were presented themse with work waterboy hand be trained professor Chartes at Charten Park test season. Pulled up only zun this term, but has conditions to all, impressed in procedure getion but Saturday and might reach the forms Boling V Distance V Rating 135

8 P54U41 GO BALLISTIC (21) Byo Cot
Owner: Airs & J Lockinst Trainer: J OShea
Force: Best Stong Promise (16: cross) by Gin Jim Food Creilenge Cup Crees
Wincardon (Smill, good to limit, Frished fourfi, 6) behind third-placed Dorace Pride, in 1957 Gold Cup at Creilecten (Smill royck, good).
Semmeny: Useful chaser who looked better likes ever when wirning impresinely at Wiccardon last line out. Proven over this course and detance an axied by the premiting fast ground, he looks an interesting each-way but. Going of Distance of Resting \$12

9 20:255 INDIAN TRACKER (54) (8F) Byo 12st ______ J Lower Owner, Joe & Joenne Richards Reiner: M Pipe Florat: Headway 10h lance, ridden tisse out and soon besten when fifth 27 to General While in Pear literal Linited Herdcop Crass et Haydock (5m, sprift, SI behind Straigh Royal and 11 behind Straigh Destring (6th better). Suscessy: Feir handcap chaser on the day at enound 3m, but is upproxyn on last going, her descriptioned in accent outlangs, is unproxyn at this distance and faces by fer his tooppast senigreesing via today. In others are Going ? Distance ? Realing 127

10 12-283 ROUGH GLEST (47) (C) Yayo 12st ________M Fitzgerald Owner: A T A Wales Trainer: T Casey
Farmer 15 third to See More Breaksen; 5) behind Cyborge, 2tl sheed of Yorkshire Galle and 21 Ya sheed of Addington Boy (5th bester) with Seaton Bank (5th bester) tasks of in Filler Chase at Cheldricham Santhlyds, good to adit, Summery: 1996 Gand Matting within and second in 1985 Gold Cup. Not as good nowedays but has non some fair races this term and will be sailed but the distance and crisis Micros with 1985 Gold Cup. Not nce and going. Might be placed. Going of Distance of Rading 128

12 211P35 SENOR EL BETRITTI (26) (C) 9yo 12si _____ C Llowellyn Owser: Gessel Nock Traber: Mrs S Nock Force of All third to Dubin Figer in Michael Page France Hendisco Che Werwick (2014/10) ds. good) previously 171 third to One Man, 121 behind St Promise in Cornel And Scory Crease at exoot (2014/10) ds. good). Summary: Smart Handloop Crease at Smart 2 Arty, who have the course won two big neces here in the autumn. Has lost his form of late, however.

robeldy does not stay this distance. Can be salely disco Going of Distance of Rating 132.

Going ✓ Distance & Rating 124 South Styles with Previously 31 second to General Walle with Simply beating (Globaller) 13 backfourth and Indian Teacher 14 back Shin Pater Massh, Chese. Suscessy: Leeks Leardicap cheec, who has been in good form the season and has complicing in his facult Pater a much sughter test today than he would in a handloop, however, and is probably a bit out of his depth.

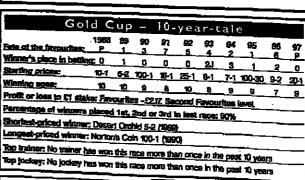
Golog of Distance of Resing 317

15 S21-22 STRONG PROBESS (21) (C) (SF) 7yo 12st......N Williamson
Owner: G Hubbard Trainer: G Hubbard
From: Vipalened runin when besten 8 by Go Bestede (16 bester) in Jim Food
Cross at Wincenton (partitriples, good to first) Producely S second to One Man
with Sear E Bested 22 bestell best in Cross 10 less of Second to One Man
with Sear E Bested 22 bestell best in Cross 2 decrease; Experience, Someways: Top-class 2 jun classes who jumps well and liess this course but
second to fell to stay the distance when well bestell test time. Sure to be up
there seek on but fillable to lated out of contention from the bown to be the

here early on but tighy to faded out of contention from the home turn. Going of Distance of Rating 129 Gotting or Literature per Common Comm

BETTING: 11-4 Dorans Pidds, 7-2 See More Basinese, 10-1 Cybo 12-1 Addington Boy, Strong Promise, 20-1 Go Bellistic, 25-1 Ch 33-1 Barton Bank, 40-1 Couldm' By Batter, 50-1 Seron El Betruti Royal, 150-1 Judian Parather, Verlabber Gale Noyal, 150-1 Indian Rucker, Yorkshire Galle 1997: Wi Muligen Syo 12st A P MicCoy 20-1 (N Chance) 14 ran

Compiled by lan Davies



Gold Cup winners INDEPENDENT 1997: Mr Multigan A P McCoy 20-) RACING SERVICES 1995: Master Oats N Williamson 100-30 1994: The Follow A Kondrat 7-1 1993: Jodami..... LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS ---- M Dwyer 8-1 1972: Cool Ground A Maguire 25-1 CHELTENHAM 971 981 1991 : Garrison Savarnski M.Picman Ki-l 1990: Norzons Cols .. G McCourt 100-) 972 982 1989; Desort Orchid ... 5 She-wood 5-2 LINGFIELD 1988: Charter Party... R Dumoody 10-1 973 983

ALL COURSES RESULTS

0891 261 970

wards his former partner. his chance is obvious. Dorans Pride is alread Festival winner. He won

Cheltenham

THERE is promise of a lo

heart-rending Irish story Cheltenham winners c sure this afternoon. While day and Istabrau's Chan Hurdle was as much also deceased John Durkan a of the living connections.

rans Pride in the Gold C also associated with a man will never again take an a part in the horse's career Shane Broderick use ride Dorans Pride with bole

and success until it all end-Entryhouse last Easter, Ri a horse called Another D ly, Broderick was fired into earth so seriously that his s was irreparably damaged.

now confined to a wheele Dorans Pride has had di ful moments of his own. In the nine-year-old was all ferried into another world v ravaged by an attack of col

tug-of-war length of intewas removed from his gut-Dorans Pride is now ha ly restored and, each time wins a race, the name of Bi erick is invoked. If the ches

captures the Blue Riband m of the glory will be funnelled

2.00 Buddy Marvel 2.35 Buckhouse Boy (nb) 3.15 Go Ballistic 3.55 FANTUS (nap)

GOING: Good. Bristol, Birminghem and London, Pad • LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS: cess regio of 6.7%; D Micholson 7 in 2 from 8 (25%). ● LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS: R

62 (9.7%); N Williamson 5 from 32 (FAVOURITES: 203 wins in 531 rs LINKERED FIRST TIME: Real E 2.00 ELITE RACING CLL 1) (CLASS A) £45,

SOZI - ANCTHER NIGHT (S) (D) (SUR HIPH BUDDY MARVEL (19) (S) (R) (S 27) (SITY HALL (49) (D) JUS R F K 6723 (DOPPER SHELL (49) (Salight 21 - DARAPOUR (S3) (J P McManz 4: NON COUNTY MASS (18) (ITS 4: NONE GREEN (20) F M Cain L 6: NONADIC (11) (D F Storley) N 7011 RANGOW FRONTER (83) (C I 1F PAINMATCH (29 (U) MAS A C #IT PROFINITION (9) (9) JUST A C #IZZG REAL ESTATE (19) (0) (Nrs J H IT ROBBO (42) (Nrs D Scarth) Mrs FRISSP RUBNINGO DE CERSY (82) (0) #IZZG ROBBO (1) (Nrs JUST A C EC. SPIALAAL, (SD) (E Knowles) MC IZ * SHOW DIBNOON (25) (BF) (Nrs IZZG SHOW WEST (SD (0) (BF) (0) 220 SHOW WEST (SD (0) (BF) (0)

23 pr zaparabao (34) (20) (mis esa 24 trez amerte (36) (0) (7 lake, H lake 25 ms vent d'aout (77) (0) (87) (28 26 usez wontcostaloteut (21) (Mo

ZAFARABAD looks in a different leagu ZAFARABILD looks in a different league with white at Kempton, on this course as watch flow white in the mudy at Newtourstes him up there with his very best himself hi

Ç

2.35 BONUSPRINT STAY (CLASS A) £85,000 a 1 F7461 BUDGHOUSE BOY (19) (D) (Bawhi 2 11-20 COMMANCHE COURT 23) (C) (D 3 F-1810) FREEDISHP (40) (I Berdadin's Br 4 1822 GYSART (19) (CD) (BF) (Mrs R Col 5 22-23 SHSART (19) (CD) (BF) (Mrs R Col 6 00-221 OCEMINANK (S4) (D) (A Archer) 6 00-221 OCEMINANK (S4) (D) (A Archer) 7 1-252 RADDES BEUTHN (S4) (D) (D) (BS 8 -969) FREEDIS TAYNE (23) (J Gaharro 9 -6111 SPLEMED TAYNE (23) (J Gaharro

9 CHE SPLEAD THYRE (25) LI Cahange 9 CHE 1992 7-4 Paday's Return, 4-1 Ocean Harel did Tinyes, 10-1 Consumerche Court, 14-1 Prin 1997: Kestil? II 10 J Celcone 20-1 (Mass H Kin FOR

Hexham

HYPERION 2.25 Centaur Express 3.00 Snips Storm Call 4.15 Redsway 4.50 5.25 What Jim Wants COMMC-Soft (Flowy in places).

© Left-Image, unclaiming causes. Rooks of 250 pct.

© Left-Image, unclaiming causes. Rooks of 250 pct.

© Left-Image, unclaiming causes. Rooks of 250 pct.

© Left-Image, unclaiming causes. Rooks and 250 pct.

© Left-Image. Common in Sect. (Series). In Bernally of Philadeline (Series). In Bernally 11-7 (Series).

© FREVOLUTE CHART TIME: Bernat Conflook (2.35). March

Left-Image. [C.5].

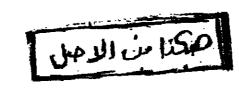
Section Georgies, [C.5].

225 THREE PEES IN A POD NO CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 1

Lingfield

HYPERION 50 Don't Drop Bombs 2.20 Ka wa 2.55 Stoppes Brow 3.25 Max 4.05 Palacegate Touch ac Courier 5.15 Herr Trigger September Stall S. R. in - codado; rest ANTINGE: Low in extent. ; surface, left-band, statep undelating co 1000: Clab Col. Businesse STO. CAR PAR mark surface; left-l

Aussion: Cub Ed, Budbone ED, CAR PARk Group Jocketti: 1 Wasne Bi-170 2015; A 1871, 5 Budden 1940 (1974), 5 Wasneris St-3 Group Tea 76-750 (1934), Group Teas That: South (1931, Euchanting) AMATEUR RIDERS HAND (CLASS F) £2,500 added N SMARD TO MY (15) (15) 5 1 7 Mr. J Type-May MICHAEL MERCHETE (200) 5 11 6 Mr. K San STEERING (200) 5 10 2 7 11 3 Mrs. J Mrs. STEERING (200) 5 10 2 7 11 Mrs. J Mrs. J Mrs. STEERING (200) 6 10 11 Mrs. A Lindson



Pride to ride on wave of emotion

Cheltenham winners' enclosure this afternoon. While Tuesday and Istabraq's Champion Stayers' Hurdle of 1995 when does not let money and own-Hurdle was as much about the of the living connections, Dorans Pride in the Gold Cup is also associated with a man who will never again take an active Hourigan. The trainer might be be pulling for one horse. part in the horse's career.

Shane Broderick used to pugilistic look about him and if ride Dorans Pride with boldness and success until it all ended at Fairyhouse last Easter. Riding a horse called Another Deadly, Broderick was fired into the earth so seriously that his spine was irreparably damaged. He is now confined to a wheelchair.

Dorans Pride has had dreadful moments of his own. In 1996 the nine-year-old was almost ferried into another world when ravaged by an attack of colic. A tug-of-war length of intestine Cup last year when still a novice was removed from his gut.

Dorans Pride is now happily restored and, each time he wins a race, the name of Broderick is invoked. If the chestnut shortage of vocal encourage- ride the horse fairly close to the cheering, the one that will swirl

his chance is obvious.

THERE is promise of a further Richard Edmondson expects a casualty of the sport to be given a golden tribute today

also for the formidable Michael on the small side, but he has a

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Dorans Pride (Cheltenham 3.15) NB: Upgrade (Cheltenham 2.00)

you tried to be nasty he'd probably make a mess of your pelvis. Hourigan has developed Dorans Pride into one of the most potent weapons in these islands. He was third in the Gold and now attempts to become only the second Irish winner of

the race since 1986. There will certainly be no captures the Blue Riband much ment. The gelding is owned by of the glory will be funnelled to- Tom Doran, one of 14 children, wards his former partner. And most of whom will gather at since last season and indeed he this Festival we are going to wit-Prestbury Park today. Doran is Dorans Pride is already a now an affluent building con- last campaign he was beaten DORANS PRIDE (nap 3.15) is Festival winner. He won the tractor in London, though he twice by Dorans Pride.

victory was in this setting in January's Pillar Chase, when he had Cyborgo as his nearest oursuer. As that runner-up is thought by ridden by a 20-year-old Brod- ership of a great horse make his trainer, Martin Pipe, to deceased John Durkan as any erick having his first ride since him too aloof. At weekends he have since improved greatly he losing his apprentice allowance. can be found pulling pints at the has a chance, though, again, the It was a first Festival winner hotel owned by his girlfriend's going is against him. family. Today the Dorans will all Charlie Brooks is doubly

represented, but the best of the The Irish horse's chance is pair may not be the most obvihardly compromised by the ous. Surry Bay is yet another ground. The New Course will alwho would not choose this gomost certainly ride good when ing and he has also been rushed the smoke comes out of the re- to get here. The Gold Cup volver today, but this will not in- may transpire to be his Grand convenience Dorans Pride as National preparation race.

Couldnt Be Better worked much as several rivals. The principal one, See More well with his stablemate re-Business, would certainly like cently and he is one, at least cermore juice underfoot. He is tain to enjoy the puffs of smoke aiming to become only the sixth thrown up from the drying horse to win both the King grass. As he was third in this George VI Chase and the Gold contest two years ago to Impe-Cup in the same season. As the rial Call, he has credentials to others include Arkle and Desert run into a place at long odds. Orchid, a special place is glit-For the win portion of the

camp is that Timmy Murphy will

More Business has improved

tering in the mountains for him. betting slip there can be only The information from his one selection. It is the one which will induce the greatest pace. Connections believe See together both joy and a certain sadness. For the second time needs to have done. During the ness a greatly poignant moment. about to win the Gold Cup.



See More Business: Pride's rival Photograph: Robert Hallam

at Doncester. A 4th pull should make all the difference. The weights going up 10th overnight have done Tidebrook more favours than most and he is just 3th off the minimum, which includes a puny 3th penalty for his demolition job of Misster Oddy on soft ground at Newbury 13 days ago. The progress he has made alnow fiddling about in email races at Perth and Uttowster less back-and is little short of phenomenal and he is 7th better in here compared to future handicaps.

Selection: TIDEBROOK E AEI CATHCART CHALLENGE CUR CHASE (CLASS R) 945 000

•	5.05	added 2m 5f
1	- 2116 1	MULLIGAN (34) (D) (Lady Hank) D Nicholson 8 11 7A Magains
•	/2-111	CALLING WILD (10) (D) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholis 8 11 3
,	-12113	DR LEUNT (40) (Paler Energy) P Hobbs 7 11 3R Destaroodly
	DP-111	JACK DOYLE (40) (CD) (Drain Looksics) N Twiston-Davies 7 tt 5
i	3212- 1	LIVELY KNIGHT (131) (D) (A D Weller) J Gillord 9 to 3
5	-4P152	MAHLER (96) (CD) (English Badminton Partnership) N Twiston-Davies 8 11 3 C Maude
7	/124	OBAN (61) (Lord Hartington) Miss H Kright 8 TI (G Bradley
•	10-111	CELESTIAL CHOIR (40) (D) (Mrs Carole Syless) J L Byre 8 to 12
•	321T2	CYPOR MALTA (40) (D) (SF) (D A Johnson) M Pipe 5 to 8
		-9 declared -
Ħ	meg:	11-4 Cylor Malta, 100-30 Jack Doyle, 9-2 Mulligan, 5-1 Celestial Chok, 8-1 Dr Lesst,
4	1 Uhreb	y Kwight, 16-1 Culling Wild, Oben, 50-1 Mahler

14-1 Livery Rugert, 16-1 Calling was, Otea, 50-1 literator
1997: Sparky Gayle 7 II 3 5 Storey 3-1 fair (C Parlier) To ran
FORM GUIDE
Trangs just have not gone Multigarn's way since he fell four out when favourite for last
year's Aride. He was again on the floor with the race sewn up at Arrhyse and he has had
two crashing falls this season, which led to him being put back over hundles. Multigarts
was problem to exhibite the William Shortes at Earth I the world wall first time out details.

two crashing falls this season, which led to him being put back over hundles. Multigants run against stablemate Viting Plagship at Exater (Jumped well) first time out shows how good he can be end he is taking on virtual nervices on his return to fences and JACK DOYLE is the safer option, selected to run up to his Sendown form with Cyfor Malta and Dr Lestut, Jack Doyle was a decent hundler in his day and hes started to fulf his potential since being put over fences this eason. His easy Ludlow win was quickly followed by another hopeasive success here and he has had a rice break since complaining the his hick at Sandown only a week later. Held up last at Sandown while Dr Leunt did most of the donley work, Jack Doyle was not produced until the final fence and then held Cyfor Malta's renewed effort effer the latter had been outpeced jumping the second last. That being only the second run in this country from Cyfor Malta's improvement can be expected and this efficient still of starting will also be to his advantage. Whether or not he turns the tables there may not be much between them again. Celestia Chor is a wonderfully upplin mare who has done all that has been asked of her in three attempts over fences. As popular a whiner as she would be, this is by far her stiffest test.

Setection: JACK DOYLE

Sejection: JACK DOYLE
5.40 VINCENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (CLASS A) £30,000 added 2m 1f
1 -5122 STAR RAGE (28) (CD) (Li Devid Abel) M Johnston B 11 10 D Gellagher 2 (24031 BLOWING WIND (S) (D) (P A Deal) M Pipe 5 11 8 (7ed APM) A P McCoy
3 0-210 MR PERCY (33) (20) (Figh Resentates Widow & Son) J Gillord 7 to 7
6 10/50 MNDFENCE (XS (CD) (note Ltd) Mrs. J. Pirmen 7 10 13
8 -33131 POLYDAMAS (14) (D) (M Boses) K Balley 6 10 10
2 23-19 SUPERTOP (155) (D) (SF) (Mr. B Lungo) L Lungo 10 10 4 R Sepale 13 - 15522 DESERT BOURTAN (40) (D SF) (Easy Mork Paley) N Calegren 5 10 4 R Haghes B 22-11F SNOW FALCON (219) (D) Falcon Syndroids T Tearle (M 5 10 3
5 2311 LEGAL RIGHT (26) (Mrs. John Magnisr) J.J. O'Nell 5 10 3 C.F. Swinn 18 45'031 RACKETRÁLL (5) (0) (Arts S Parintny) N. West Touris 5 10 3 C. Lineabyn 17 222 RACKETRÁLL (5) (0) (Arts S Parintny) N. West M. H. Pers 5 10 1 C. Maurin
16 4/2-02 BLESS ME SSTER (12) (Bray Partners) R Rowe 9 10 0
21 10-12 SELMARTIA (25) (07) (67) (6 Hubberd) G Hubberd 5 10 0 R Thombon 22 0/TAP LE (FOLME (47) (0) (G Moore) I. Newlio 7 10 W Marston 23 P2/61 LINE OF CONCUEST (26) (0) (Mass C A James) R Hodges 6 10 0 R Presell
24 2-192 TOSHBA TALK M21 Grades districted a Filter a 910 Hz Course at 1
25 215(5 TUTAL SUCCESS (11) (5 Ross) T Watch (0) 6 10 0
Minimum violate: 10st. Trus handicen waln'the Roust Me Sister Set 13th Televis Out 13th Minner Roos!

CHELTENHAM 2.00: BUDDY MARVEL, who ran HYPERION'S his best race so far when beating

older rival Road Racer by five lengths in the Otade Two Dovecote Novices' Hurdle over 2m on fast ground at Kempton last time, has conditions in his favour today and looks sure to run 2 big race. Zafarabed comes into this race unbeaten over timber but might be best on soft ground Upgrade, who is another who is proven on fast ground in strongly-run races. may be a bigger danger. Of the Irish raiders. Snow Dragon is the rane. the prevailing conditions.

2.35: BUCKHOUSE BOY, who ran a tremendous race to beat Gypart (4th better of today) by 12 lengths in the Grade Two Rendlesham Limited Handicap Hurdle over 3m at Kempton last time. comes into this race on top of his form, has conditions in his favour again and looks well worth an each-way bet. Paddy's Return, hugely impressive on soft ground in the Long Walk Hurdle over 3m 1f 110yds at Ascot in December, was a bit disappointing when beat-en by Ocean Hawk in the Premier Long Distance Hurdle over an 7f at Haydock last time but should reverse those placings here and should not mind the ground. He is the obvious danger.

First show

Cheltenham -- 2.00

einbow Frontier 74 8-1 7-1 8-1

tuckly Marvel 12-1 10-1 7-1 10-1

tron County Ximes 8-1 10-1 12-1 12-1

Snow Dragon 16-1 16-1 20-1 20-1

Supply & Demend 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1

Results

C H L T

41 41 92 103

64 64 54 54

10-1 10-1 11-1 12-1

10-1 10-1 10-1 12-1

141 21 141 21

18-1 14-1 16-1 12-1

3.15; GO BALLISTIC, fourth to Mr Mulligan in this race last year. looked better town ever when hammering Strong Promise in the Jim Ford Challinge Cup at Wincanton last time and, with the ground drying out, looks a good each-way bet. Set More Business has gone from strength to rength this season, but thought most likely to be suited by the King George VI Chase winner is not the most fluent of jumpers and all the form that has made him favourite for this race has been on soft ground. Dorans Pride, third in this race last year, six lengths ahead of the selection, came back to his be t last time out to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown but is another who is best in the mud. Others who might run a big race on the ground are: Berton Bank (second last year), Couldn't Be Better and Addington Boy.

 $\Box\Box\Box$ 3.55: FANTUS, winner of this race last year and sure to be fitter for his second at Wincanton last time. goes well on fast ground and should again be hard to heat. The

Cheltenham HYPERION 2.00 Buddy Marvel 4.30 Sublime Fellow

2.35 Buckhouse Boy (nb) 5.05 Jack Doyle 3.15 Go Ballistic 5.40 Barna Boy 3.55 FANTUS (nap)

 Left-hand, galloping course with stiff tences. Upful run-in of 240yd. ● Course is fin N of town off A435. Bus link from Cheltenham Spa rail station (served by Bristo). Exmington and London, Paddington) 2n. ADMISSION: Sold out.

● LEADING FESTIVAL TRAINERS: M Pipe — 9 witness from 135 numers gives a success ratio of 6.7%; D Micholson 7 from 71 (9.9%); E O'Grady 4 from 19 (211%); R Ainer 2 from 8 (25%).

2 HUM 6 (274).

D LEADING FESTIVAL JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody 6 wirs from 46 (122%); C Swan 6 from 62 (9.7%); N Witliamson 5 from 32 (15.6%); A P McCoy 4 from 35 (11.4%).

■ FAVOURITIES: 203 with 1531 races (8.2%).

BILLIKEBURD FIRST TIME: Bast Festing Swing West (2.00): Depart Mayuntain 6.40

SLINKERED FIRST TIME: Real Estate, Swing West (200); Desert Mountain (5.40).
2.00 ELITE RACING CLUB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade C4) 1) (CLASS A) £45,000 4YO 2m 1f
1) (CLASS A) £45,000 4YO 2m 1f
T 5021 ANOTHER NIGHT (5) (D) (Sunset Partnership) P Murphy 11 0
2 THPTI BUDDY MARVEL (19) (D) (R Ogden) O Sherwood Ti O
3 2F11 CTTY HALL (40) (0) (Mis A F Key & Mis V Ward) Mis V Ward 11 0R Thornton
4 5P23 COPPER SHELL (40) (Galagher Equine) Mrs L Jewell 11 0 B Powell
5 21 DARAPOUR (SS) (J.P. McMenus) A P.O'Brien (In) 11 0
6 121 IRON COUNTY XMAS (39) (ron County Farms) D Weld (in) 11 0
7 41 KRIS GREEN (26) (P M Carl) L Lungo 11 0
8 6ft NOMADIC (11) (D P Sharkey) N Meads (ri) 11 0
10 TIF RAINNATCH (34) (0) (Mrs A C Farranti M Pipe 11 0
2 12 ROBBO (42) (Ass D Scarth) Mrs M Reveloy 1 0
13 F1133P RUNNING DE CERISY (82) (D) (P A Dea) M Pipe 11 0T J Marphy
14 1651 F SCOSS (25) (M A Ryan) T Walsh (M) 71 C
5 62 SHALAAL (33) (E Knowles) M Chapman 11 0
16 12 SNOW DRAGON (25) (BF) (Mrage Syndicals) N Meeds (M) 11 0
17 12 SUPPLY AND DEMAND (19) (D) (BP) (Action) G L Moore 11 0
18 2120 SWING WEST (33) (D) (BF) (N Given) P Eacles 11 0 D Brime B
19 20101 THE PRESCH PURZE (21) (CD) (J Erms & Partners) M Pipe 11 C
20 32:134 TOUGH ACT (40) (D) (Mrs A Doel) Mrs A Perrett 11 0 G Bradley
21 132 TYROLEAN DREAM (26) (P Heath) M Tomplans 11 0
22 PER UPGRADE (27) (D) (M Archer & Mess J Broschurst) N Twiston-Davies 11 0 C Llewellyn
23 th ZAFARABAD (34) (CD) (Mrs Bane Baines) D Nicholson II 0 A Magnite
24 m22 AMITGE (96) (D) (P Lake, H Lake) M Poe 10 9
25 116 VENT D'AQUT (77) (D) (BF) (Elle Recing Club) M Fipe 109 J Biens 26 U3629 WONTCOSTALOTBUT (21) (Wontcostalot Parinershp) M Wildreon 109 W Maraton
25 USE21 WONTCUSTALLOISUT (21) (WONEOSSEX PATRESSE) IN WHISTON ID 9
BETTING: 4-1 Zatarabad, 8-1 Darapour, 9-1 Rainbow Frontier, 19-1 Iron County Xmas, 12-1 Bud-
dy Maryet Chy Hall Negastic, 14-1 Reinwetch, Licerade, 20-1 Seew Dragge, The French Fuzze.

dy Marvet, Chy Hall, Normadic, 14-1 Rahmatch, Upgrade, 20-1 St 25-1 Real Estate, Supply And Demand, 50-1 others 1997 Commanche Court 4 ti 0 N Williamson 9-1 (T Walsh, In) 28 ran

FORM GUIDE

ZAFARABAD looks in a different league to his 25 mile. It has been easy for him so far with wins at Kempton, on this course and at Newbury, and he was powering over Rainwatch (two wins in the mud) at Newbury when that rival fell at the test. David Nicholson rates him up there with his very best hurders. Buddly Manvel has looked pacey at Doncaster and Kempton, but the teeling is on this tougher course Zatarabad will outstay him. The French Furze can go really well on this ground, Jonothan Lower takes the rids with Tony McCoy aboard Rainbow Frontier, who has his first run for Martin Fipe after thour wrist for Auten Othern in the raud - something he is not going to get today. The French Furze trotted up here in November and Pipe would love nothing better than to give Lower a Festival winner. Richard Dunwoody is at his best holding together these young hurders and Nomadic looks sure to be there for Dermot Weld after the two who with Dunwoody aboard. Darapour and Charlie Swan will have a following after the Flat wins. A winner at Leopardstown on his second hurdes start, his form was given a lovely boost when the second from County Xmas, who meets Darapour on 6th better terms, won by 15 langths at Leopardstown next time.

	2.35	BONUSPRINT STAYERS HURDLE (Grade 1) (CLASS A) £85,000 added 3m 110yds RUCHOUSE BOY ITS OF IRROW Broat D Nicholson 6 to 10
1	PZMII	
1	11-210	COMMANCHE COURT (33) (C) (D F Desmand) T Walsh (ki) 5 h to
1 3	F-HF0	FRIENDSHIP (40) (T BenfieldAV Brown) N Henderson 6 11 10
4	111212	CTYSART (19) (CD) (BF) (Mrs Fl Cobbods) M Pipe 8 11 10 A P McCoy B
•	22.213	MIGHTY MOSS (54) (CD) (K Hutsby) D Nicholson 7 11 10
ė	00.221	- NCFAN HAWK (SA) (D) (M Archer) Broadhurst) N TWStor-Danes 6 11 10 C Liennikus
1		PADDY'S RETURN (54) (C) (D) (BF) (P O'Donnell) F Murphy 6 11 10 N Williamson
	1-406	HADDIS HEIDHA (34) (C) (D) (CF) (F ODS 144
l &	-24124	PRINCEPUL (40) (C) (R Highns) Mrs J Phrasa 7 11 10
9	-61111	SPLENDIO THYNE (26) (J Galvanoni) T Casey 6 11 10
1		- 9 declared -
Ιı	ETTING:	7-4 Paddy's Return, 4-1 Ocean Hawk, 7-1 Mighty Moss, 8-1 Buckhouse Boy, Gysart, Spien-

did Thyse, 10-1 Commenche Court, 14-1 Princeful, 33-1 Frien 1997, Karshi 7 11 10 J Osporne 20-1 (Miss H Knight) 17 ran FORM GUIDE

PADDY'S RETURN is the favourite - as he was at Haydock last time when beats quarters of a length by Ocean Hawk in a slowly run race. With the yard on a high after French Holly's win yesterday, Paddy's Return can reverse the form - and he will be a stronger horse this time after the third to Karshi in the race last year when Ocean Hawk ran who below form when tracd in blinkers. Winner of the Tritumph Hurdle two years ago, Paddy's

Return looked right for today's task when he botted home from Prickvell at Aecot in December. That impressive win was gained in the mud but Paddy's Return is probably even better on this surface. Ocean Heavk is a tough sort who has won plenty of races on test ground, so he is going to be a hard to beet. So game again when beather a head by hilightly Mose here in Jeanuary, he meets the Nicholson horse on till beater terms. Mighty Mose was squeezed for room at Haydock and is cartarily better than the 29-length defact with Ocean Heavk and Paddy's Return suggests. Backhouse Boy is a progressive handicapper with wins at Sandown and Kempion last imorth. He beat gystem to fisst ground at Kempion last time, but this pair will need to improve again and be true stayers to beat the two principals. Commanche Court, winner of the Tirumph Hurdle lest yeer, is the derk horse in the race, having never run beyond two miles. Besten with a big weight at Newhury last time, this race rarely goes to a suspect stayer. Priendship was beaten by Buchhouse Boy at Sandown last time and is 5to worse off here, while Princeful is another with a tough task after finishing 10 lengths behind Buchhouse Boy at Sandown. But in truth these handicappers carnot be expected to threaten Paddy's Return or Ocean Heavk. Splendiid Thyne is one of the most progressive handicappers but Terry Casey's charge has never won on ground he is skely to encounter today.

Selection: PADDY'S RETURN Return looked right for today's task when he bolited home from Pridwell at Ascot in De-

3.55 CHRISTIES FOXHUNTERS CHASE (CLASS B) C4
1 221-13 ARDERESMAN (36) (C.C. Bennett) J. Porter 11 2.0
2 U-B211 DENFRELD (26) () McDonald) C McGratney 6th 7 12 0Mir Bochaman
3 11-F11 EARTH-MOVER (13) (D) (R M Penny) R Barber 7 12 0
4 TIFM ELEGANT LORD (10) (CD) LI P McManus) E Bolger (M) 10 12 0
5 2F1-22 FANTUS (25) (CD) (J.A Keighley) R Berber 11 20Nr T Mischell
6 P/11-3 FLASHING STEEL (SE) (C) (C) Haughey) J Muhem (M) 18 12 0
7 2 t/m STAY IN TOUCH (18) (B Brazier) J Costello (ri) 8 12 0
8 12-21 TINOTOPS (40) (C) (D) (RHH Targett) Mrs R Victory 8 12 0
9 212-12 WILBAR (35) (W Flood) W Flood (m) 9 12 0 Mb J C
10 111-41 GRIBRLEY GALE (19) (FI M PHIROS) M Jackson 9 11 9
17 1/111- JIGTENE (335) (J Hughes) J Hughes 9 11 9Mr M Brediums
- 11 dactared -
DESTRUCT & Change and & Continuous & Continuous & Change & Break & C. Sarting William

BETTING: 5-4 Elegant Lord, 4-1 Earthmover, 9-2 Funtus, 10 16-1 Grintey Gale, 25-1 Flashing Steel, 35-1 Tinotope, 50-1 1997: Fantus 10 12 0 Mr T Mitchell 10-1 (Fl Barber) 18 non FORM GUIDE

Fortime and ELEGANT LORID have downsted this race since 1995, when the inish-trained horse, starting hot favourite, trailed in third behind Richard Barber's 20-length winner. Fartuse missed the whole of 1996, which left Elegant Lord to patify favouritism at the expense of Cool Dawn and Kerry Orchid, and it was Elegant Lord who was absent test year when Fartus came back with a game defeat of Cab On Target, Now an 11-year-old, Fartus has had two runs this year to put him apot on. He overcame ground faster than he cares for 21 months ago, but with it drying out again conditions should be much more in tayour of the year younger Elegant Lord. He has won at three starts in reland this season, two point-to-points and a hunter chase at Leoperdstown, where his two-length deleat of previous witner Wilber gave no real indication of his superiority. Wilber had won his previous winner Wilder gave no real indication of his superiority. Wilder had won his preout rate on ready ground a raymouse, peasing Lovey fown and say in flouch has gone and a half and half a length. Apart from being a stone better in, Stay in flouch has gone on to win his next two starts. He looks a danger, but the home side are well represent-ed by Earthmouser, while Scottish mare Jigtime, unbeaten in all four hunter chases, will give a good account of hereaft it is difficult to know whether it is Faints or Earthmouser who is Richard Barber's main hope. Both look to have an equal chance, because if it was not for a fall list time out this season Earthmover would be unbeaten in his last 10 starts and is open to improvement.

4.30 CHELTENHAM GRAND ANNUAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £35,000 added 2m 110yds 1 mtill CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (40) (D) (Cumbrian Industrials) T Easterby 9 ft 10 Myor 2 U43-20 Time WONT WAT (47) (D) (Old Baris Partnesship) R Philips 9 ft 7 R Damesoddy
1 HOTP CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE (40) (D) (Cumbrian Industrials) T Easterby 9 ft 10 1. Wyer 2 U43-20 TIME WORT WAIT (47) (D) (Cld Barks Pertunction) R Philips 9 ft 7 R Democrate
2 U43-29 TIME WORT WAIT (47) (5) (Cld Baris Partnership) R Philips 9 11.7
3 326H3 FLYING INSTRUCTOR (19) (D) (Lady Lyel) P Webber 8 11 7
4 1-3104 REDIAN JOCKEY (96) (D) (S M Mercer) M Pipe 6 th 7
5 P-4ff EDREDON BLEU (28) (29) (Jim Lewis) Miss H Knight 6 11 6
6 215-3 LIGHTENING LAD (12) (D) (Richard Peterson) J King 10 #15
7 D-010F KIERREET (19) (CD) (Nerry Warrer) P Hobbs 11 TI A
8 -36532 DOWN THE FELL (47) (D) (Mrs S Jahrson) J H Johnson 9 11 ()
9 32-422 MISTER CODY (13) (CC) (SP) (Mrs R M HB) J King 12 109
10 -8U(2) HURRICANE LANGE (SQ (D BF) SMr & Mrs F Welch(R Barry) D Microson 7 10 6 R Thornton
T) 131F54 GREEN GREEN DESERT (19) (D) (D C Mercer) O Sherwood 7 to 8
12 -14302 SUBLIME FELLOW (19) (D) (R McGrath) N Handerson 8 10 5
13 -23/23 BARNAGEERA BOY (54) (D) (EF) (Mrs CS Wison) W Jenis 9 to 4
14 1-11/1 TUDEBROOK (15) (D) (R Williams) K Balley 8 10 S (Sec)
15 21-224 NAMSARII (19) (D) (R Packer) P Rich 10 10 1
16 2F3332 ZABADI (21) (D) (Ledy Harrel D Nicholson 6 10 0
17 F/F804 FABRICATOR (37) (0) (James Clements) Mis A Naughton 12 100 C O'Deyer
2 221463 MORSTOCK (21) (D) (Airs M Farbeirn) R Hodges 8 10 0 T Descorabe

Plenty of these have very respectable clams, and four against the field are Edradon Blau. Flying Instructor, Down The Fall and TIDEBHOOK. French import Edradon Blau, at six the baby of the field and the one with more scope than most, has really come to himself with wins at Leicester, Kempton and Sandown, getting better with each run. One stight blemish may be that those wins were all on right-hand tracks and he had jumped manked by right throughout at Chepatow (left hand. Bis today) first time out. Flying instructor was a good fourth in last year's Arkis and was also going well when he fall at Artice. This could be his time of year and he is in good heart at present, whining impressively at Haydock and being unlucky not to follow up at Newbury. His latest effort was a good third behind in-form pair Even Flow and Mornale Forte over two and a half miles at Haydock and he seems to prefer this better ground. Down The Fed came good at Artice last year and, having run so wall against Viking Flagship (level weights) and Lord Dorcet (rec. 10b) on soft ground at Wetherby over Christmas, and just missed out to Cumbrian Challenge

ero rib ressi est sesucional anne nu menus dad uddes du que adduseà adus"	
produced until the final fence and then held Cyfor Mailais renewed	ı
r had been outpaced jumping the second lest. That being only the	1
ountry from Cylor Malta improvement can be expected and this stiffer	l
also be to his advantage. Whether or not he turns the tables there may	i
en them again.Celestial Choir is a wonderfully tough mare who has	
een aaked of her in three attempts over fences. As popular a winner	1
is is by far her stiffest test.	ı
Selection: JACK DOYLE	
CATT AIRDICK COUNTY HANDIOAD HINDDI C (Comdo	ŀ
ENT O'BRIEN COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade	,
LASS A) £30,000 added 2m 1f	ì
SE (26) (CD) (J David Abel) M Johnston 8 11 10	ı
MORE AS AN AS A Deep Million S. 41 & Area	1
WNO (S) (D) (P A Deat) M Pipe 5 11 8 (7ed	l
T (60) (CD) (160 NOSEREES WOOM & COLV J CHICLE / 11 (
OY (61) (CD) (Lynn Wilson) N Handerson 10 11 6	I٠
27) Careta Altred Al Messouri D Micholeon 5 Tl 3	
E (30) (CD) (Indel Lid) Mrs / Pfirmen 7 10 13 A Duswoody MJ (5) (D) (C F Sparrowhank) G L Moore 7 10 12 M Balchelor (7)	
44 (5) (D) (C F Sparrowhams) G L Moore 7 TO 12	
AS (14) (D) (M Boase) K Balley 6 10 10	
Z PRINCE (5) (0) (Prile: Gym & Leisure) Mise V Williams 7 10 7	
IA (26) (CD) (M P Burks Developments) D Nicholson & 107	ì
(11) (Figh Street Record) N Meeds (III) 8 10 5 PC Street	
P (136) (D) (BF) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 10 10 4	
P (136) (D) (BP) (Mrs B Lungo) L Lungo 10 10 4	
LCDN 22199 (23) (Falcon Swindicate) T Teatle (in) 5 to 3	ı
#HT (25) (Mrs John Magnieri J J O'Nell 5 10 3 C F Swan	
ALL (5) (DA (Mrs. S. Teinion): N. Twiston-Davies, S. 10.3	
N KNIGHT (22) (6F) (Lucayan Study M Pipe 5 to 1	l
N KNIKSHT (22) (BF) (Lucayen Stud) M Pipe 5 10 1 C Maude SSSTER (12) (Bray Partners) R Rowe 9 10 0 D O'Sulfiner	
(S) P McManus)	
EED (19) (D) (G Piper) R Simpson 8 10 0	
(A (28) (D) (SF) (G Hubbert) G Hubbard 5 to 0	
#F (47) (D) (G Moore) J Naville 7 10 0	
ONOUEST (26) (0) (Mass C.A. James) R Hodges 8 to 0 B Possell	
#F (47) (0) (G Moore) J Nevillo 7 00 0	
CCESS (11) (S Roas) T Walsh (20) 6 10 () T P Trace (i
IGE (34) (CD) (BCD) Sleek Lid) P Evans 6 10 0	,
3LOANE (47) (D) (G Plano) G Flerro 5 10 0	
(F8) (McCarri Lizi) M Chapman 7 10 0	i
so designed	

Miramum weight: 10st. Trus handicap weights: Bless Me Sister Set 13th, Trigers Set 13th, Nipper Reed Set 12th, Selments Set 11th, Le Rhound Set 11th, Line Of Compuset Set 5th, Rehiber Talk Set 4th, Total Success Set 4th, Gentley Set 4th, Renger Starce Set 3th, See 6th 7th 6th. Set 4th, Total Success Set 4th, Gentley Set 4th, Renger Starce Set 3th, See 6th 7th 6th. Set 4th, Total Success Set 4th, Set 4th,

Even allowing for the difference in ground compered to Seturday, BLOWING WIND is still going to take a lot of stopping after the manner of his defect of Sadler's Realm and Nahrawali in Sandown's Imperial Cup. Two out he was going like a winner and he strode right away once given his head after the last. Last year's winner Berna Boy has had a most preparation and Tidjani has a good chance of overturning that form with the 8th he has for just over five langits. The thint challenger had run well when deliging out the front-running Nahrawali (2th better in) for third in Newbury's five Gold frophy. Advocat, four lengths behind Nahrawali at Newbury, could not be naied out, and neither could litt.

Parray who homes a found vessels in that area. Mr Parray the proving which had been four lengths behind Natirawal at Newbury, could not be ruled out, and neuter could see Percy, who broke a blood vessel in that race. Mr Percy's two previous wins had been here and he is very much a course specials. Star Rage, witner of this race two years ago, continues high in the handicap. He has a reasonable pull for the 11 lengths he fin-lated behind Mr Percy here in November but it is L'Opera. 2th better in for running Mr Percy to a neck the following month, who has the best chance of reversing the form. Selection: BLOWING WIND

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14-1	12.1	12-1	12-1
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16-1	15-1	12-1	20-1
r:25-1	20-1	<u>25-1</u>	25 -1
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33-1	40-1	<u>33-1</u>	50-
40-1	40-1	66-1	50-
50-1	100-1	66-1	66
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150-1	150-1	153-1	150
	11-4 987-2 7-1 9-1 8-1 14-1 14-1 15-1 25-1 25-1 33-1 40-1 150-1	11-4 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2 5-2	11-4 5-2 11-4 18-7-2 7-2 7-2 7-1 8-1 7-1 9-1 19-4 9-1 14-1 19-1 19-1 14-1 19-1 19-1 15-1 15-1 19-1 15-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1 25-1

Vent D'Aout	50-1	50-1	33-1	33-1	Yorkshire Gale _1		
Kris Green	66-1	50-1	50-t	66-1	Each-way a quarte	r the odds, place	. 1, 2, 3
Russing De C.	86-1	66-1	68-1	66-1			
Tyrolana Dream	50-1	50-1	86-1	88-1	Cheiten	iham — 3.	.55
Another Night	100-1	66-1	66-1	80-1	Horse	н	
Swing West	86-1	68-1	100-1	100-1	Elegent Lord	evers .	10-11
Tough Act	100-1	66-1	66-1	100-1	ERREITORE	100-30	41
Copper Shell					Fernis	41	9.2
					Stay in Touch	10-1	10-1
Sheisel	150-1	150-1	150-1	190-1	Jigitine	16-1	20-1
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Each-way a quart	er the c	dds, pl	1086, 1	23,4	Wither	20-1	20-
C - Coral H - Will		i lari	writes	T.Tries	Fleshing Steel	25-1	25-1
0-00a, 11-4E	B) (B)	(84	~~~	1 - 1.25	Timolope	33-1	25-1
					Denfield	100-1	56-1
Chelte	nha	m _	- 7.	25	Ardirennen	150-1	100-1
-11-9-19-5					I		

Cheltenham — 5.05

<u>16-1</u>

16-1 16-1 16-1 33-1 33-1 33-1

Cheltenham 2.35								
icree	C	Ħ	L	· T	•	Լ		
addy's Return	13-8	15-8	7-4	7-4	1	Γ		
Octon Hank	4-1	9-2	41	4-1	ļ	ŀ		
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Each-way a quarter the cods, places, 1, 2, 3								
Cred H. William Hill L. Lorfwins T. Trio								

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Chelte	nha	m —	5.4	0
Horse	C	H		
Blowing Wind	94	17-4	11-4	_3-
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Barna Boy	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-
Achiquat	16-1	2-1	18-1	14-
Tidani	14-1	12-1	14-1	16:
Mr Percy	20-1	20-1		15-
Nahrawali	20-1	19-7	14-1	20
Nontance Prince	20-1	15 -1	18-1	14-
Polydamus	20-1	16-1	14-1	15
Snow Felcon	20-1	20-1	12-1	1 5-
L'Opera	22-1	25-1	25-1	25-
Market in a	25-1	25-1	20-1	20-
Recigital	20:1	14-1	25-1	20
	25-1		26 1.	<u> 2</u> 2
Decert Mountain			29-1	25-
Bahamian Knigh	28-1	Z <u>5-1</u>	33-1	
Belggarita		<u> 33-1</u>		
Une Of Conques	<u> 33-1</u>	_33-1		
Total Success		<u>33-1</u>	25-1	33-
Bless Me States				
Indefence	40-1		<u> 33-1</u>	
Nicour Read	_25-1		40-1	
	40-1			
-	40-1		40-1	
	50-1		50 <u>-1</u>	
		100-1		
Rampe Steame				
Sea God	<u>250-1</u>	<u>500-1</u>	<u> 200-1</u>	30
Each-way a respec	r she a	-	1 1	22

G-COS' U - MERTILLE' F - FRENCHEZ I - INE.				1 1	Cricicennam — 3.40			v		
					• 1	Horse	C	H		
CL 1	$\overline{}$		4.7		7 I	Blowing Wind	94	11-4		_3-
Chette	nha	m	- 4.3	U	11	Legal Right	<u>\$1</u>	12-1	12-1	10-
Home	C	H	L	T	1	Barne Boy	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-
Tidebrook	3-1	7-2	7-2	7-2	1	Advocat	16-1	Z-1	18-1	_ 14-
Edrados Blas	7-2	5-1	8-2	B-1	Ιí	Tidani	14-1	12-1	41	
Flyling Instructor		7-1	6-1	7-1	1	Mr Percy	20-1	20-1	<u>16-1</u>	B -
			_		ΙI	Nathrawall_	20-1	18-7	14-1	
Down The Fes	14-1	21	10-1	71-1	[]	Nontance Prince		15 -3	8-1	14-
Huntcane Lamp	10-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	ı	Polydamus	20-1	16-1	14-1	6
Samageora Bay	14-1	14-1	16-1	14-1	! !	Snow Felcon	20-1	20-1	2-1	_15:
Time Wort Web	16-1	10-1	12-1	14-1	!!	L'Opera	<u> 22-1</u>	25 -1	25-1	25-
					IJ	Machines	<u> 25-1</u>	25-1	20-1	20
Combrian Chall.	20-1	20-1	26-1	16-1	1 1	Recigation	_2 <u>0-1</u>	14-1	25-1	20
Indian Jockey	<u> 20-1</u>	20-1	<u> 20-1</u>	15-1	1 1	Star Rege	<u>25-1</u>	20-1	_2 6 _L	<u>æ</u>
Lightening Led	16-1	14-1	16-1	20-1	Ιł	Depart Mountain		_26-1	<u>29-1</u>	<u> 25-1</u>
Alleder Oddy	20-1	14-1	20-1	20-1	1 1	Bahamian Knigh		<u>25-1</u>	33-1	20-1
Nalyseri	20-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	1 1	Bulmanta	<u> 20-1</u>	<u> 39-1</u>	28-1	16-
					iΙ	Une Of Conques		_33 <u>-1</u>	33-1	_33-1
Sabilme Fellow	20-1	18-1	20-1	20-1	lł	Total Success	_ <u>28-3</u>	_ <u>33-1</u>	<u> 251</u>	_
Gen Gen Desert	<u>25-1</u>	25-1	20-1	20-1	l j	Bless Me Stater	40-1	28-1	40-1	<u>25-1</u>
(Cibrest	25-1	25-1	四-1	25-1	iΙ	Indefence	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1
Zabadi	20-1	25-1	25-1	20-1	[]	Nipper Reed Gutteridge	<u>-25-1</u>	35-1	40-1	<u>25-j</u>
Morstock	40-1	33-1	40-1	40-1	l (40-1	<u>50-1</u>	50-1	
					1 1	Supertop	40-1	<u>50-1</u>	40-1	
Fabricator	66-1	100-1	85-1	66-1	1	Toshiba Talk	50-1	66-1	50-T	
Nashville Star	150-1	150-1	150-1	150-1		Le Khoussi		<u> 100-1</u>	66-1	
Each-way a quarta	r the co	tts, per	398, 7, 2	2,3,4	1 1	Range Stoane		150-1	100-1	
C - Corel, H - William		-			il	Sea God		<u>500-1</u>		
						Gacti-way a quarte	r one ox	205. DB	OBK, 1, 2	Z 3 4

Hexham

HYPERION 2.25 Centaur Express 3.00 Sniper 3.35 Storm Call 4.15 Redsway 4.50 Peter 5.25 What Jim Wants CORNE: Soft (Heavy in places)

Left-front, undusting course Run-in of 250/d

Left-front, undusting course Run-in of 250/d

Dath Schole: Cabo Str. Parktock Dis (OAPa DA CAR PARK: Free

BLEADING, OCICIEVES IN Guest 3-85 (SISTA) IN Bernstry 12-38 (SISTA)

T Read 12-57 (SISPA) IR Gardiny 17-71 (NUSA)

© FAVOURITES: '56-407 (363"4). BLOKERED FIRST TIME: Broad Cutlook (435), Matachae (459). 2.25 THREE PEES IN A POD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 2m 110yds 1 - 1287 (2017MR D2785S Q (D) 6 T 1) - 2 1221 MM MERGS (7) (D) (67) 7 T 10 - 3 1422 MM MERGS (7) (D) (67) 7 T 10 - 4 622 EMPERGES MAGIC (29) 7 T 13 - 5 1000 TM TYSON Q (7) T 1000 TM TYSON Q (7) T 13 - 5 1000 TM TYSON Q

- 8 declared -BETTING: 11-6 Purovalus, 2-1 Contact Express, 4-1 Ham N°EggA, 8-1 Emperor's Magic, 25-1 Poerder Prins, 33-1 others 3.00 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

4.15 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E)

1 P260-3 BALLYDAWD CO) 6 17 3 _______ E Calleghan 2 60000 BRANDSEY MARSTER (9) 7 11 3 ______ S Gallan (9)

£3.000 added 3m

Mendouteck Set 70, Conjugal Set 60. SETTENG: 5-2 Stone Call, 7-2 Callet March, Hobbe Chrice, 7-1

Kibby Bard: Set 40, Abbey Lump Bet 110. BETTING: 3-1 Peter, 7-2 Reteine Cestie, 4-1 Silver Stick, Street 6-1 Kithy Bank, 8-1 Apache Reider, 23-1 Abbey Lean 5.25 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2.650 added 3m 544FZ MENSHAAR (20) (20) (8F) 6 12 0 882H TOPOTHENORTH RACING MA MAA 24(300 SCARBA (12) (C) (D) 10 11 3... P8230 WHAT JAM WANTS (10) 5 71 1 (1) 10 11 3 _____ E Called (1) (10 5 71 1 ____ R McGraft SETTING: 3-1 Dules Bay, 7-2 Spirit of Steel, 9-2 Redsway, 11-2 Bullydavid, 8-1 Middle Bay, 16-1 Chief Chippie, 20-1 others DOCKMASTER (pt. p) 7 to 1 _______ R Ger DODY MYSER (40) (0) 8 to 10 ______ G FRyer (VETTOCHSUELAD (s) 8 to 11 (sec) ______ & Sepp 4.50 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 3-POI VEPRANO (25,00,7101) £5,500 added 4m 3-3POI SILVEN STICK (6) 9 12 0 (384) 6-3PPI RUSSIAN CASTLE (30) 9 11 2 10 5064PO MORTHERN FLASH (8) 4 10 0 . -10 declared -BETTING: 7-2 Manufacer, 5-1 What Jian Wards, 6-1 Topothercorters ing, 7-1 Doctomater, Mitoclaskie Lad, 8-1 Scortes, 10-1 others

= 3 secures = EETTRIC: 11-10 Crist Arch, 9-4 liquic Cases, 5-1 Artic Coast 7-4 Accelost, 25-1 lifes Fig Up

5.15 HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,750

added 1m 2f

1 8400. WILD RICE (200 (CO) 6 10 0 OSES- OPENA BUTT (147) (C) 7:100 _____ A No. 15- HORITHERN BLESSING (160) 48:11 ____

6. 43333 BAFDON HILL BOY (13) (13) 888... 7. 83435 CUR PEOPLE (773) 48-6 8. -2035 DIGPPST (16) (2) 886 9. 32590 BON GUEST (16) (13) 484.....

Selection: BLOWING WIND	CHELTENHAM
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2.00: 1. FRENCH HOLLY (A Thornton)
	2-1 fev; 2. Torboy 8-1; 3. Cloone Bridge
	8-1, 18 ran., 14, 21/s. (F Murphy, Middleham).
5 PRIZSS APACHE RAIDER (N) 6 100S Taylor (S) B	Tota: \$2.70; £160, £2.90, £2.00, DF: £15.00
6 B32(33 KIBBY BANK (42) 9 10 0	CSF: £1358. NP: Knock Leader. 7to: £3350.
7 PRS4 ABBEY LAMP (307) 8 10 0 M Foster	2.35: 1. ONE MAN (B Harding) 7-2: 2
-7 declared -	Or Royal 7-2; 3. Lord Dorcet 50-1 8 ran.
Minimum weight: 10st. Trum hendicag weighte: Acesche Raider 9ei 9tb.	5-2 fav Ask Tom (6th), 4, 5, (G Richards,
Kildov Bards Sat 4th, Alabay Lamp But 11th,	Greystoke). Tota: \$4.20; £1.50, £1.40, £4.00.
BETTING: 5-1 Potes, 7-2 Reseating Coastle, 4-1 Silver Stick, Streets.	DF: £880, CSF; £1404
6-1 Kilder Bank, 8-1 Apache Reider, 33-1 Abber Lamp	3.15: 1. TOP CEES (B Fenton) 11-1; 2.
···	Khayrewani 20-1; 3. Royal Marine 10-1;
5.25 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F)	4. Like A Lion 12-1 21 ran. 6-1 fev Daray-
£2,650 added 3m	dan 11/4, 1/4 (Mra J Ramaden, Thirsk). Total:
•	£1690, £370, £870, £430, £230, DF: £31300.
1 544F2 MERSHAAR (25) (CD) (BF) 6 20	CSF: £208.45. Tricast: £2,111.76. Tric:
Z 1532H TOPOTHEKORTHRAĆNIG (B) (D) 8 TI TI B GARAGE (S)	
2 246300 SCAFIBA (12) (C) (D) 10 11 3 E Callaghan 4 P82241 WHAT JAN WANTS (18) 5 71 1 R McGrain (2)	3.55: 1. FLORIDA PEARL (R Dun-
PROOF WHAT IN WANTS HO S 71	woody) 11-8 fav; 2. Escartefique 5-1; 3.
304082 DOCKOMASTER (N ED) 7 tl 1R Genel	Fullip 9-1 10 ram. 11/4, 18 (W Mulims, Clo- sutton, Co. Carlow). Tota: £2:10: £140.
6 183320 DIDDY FIRMER (40) (D) 8 10 13	\$180, \$200, DF: \$470, CSF: \$759, The: \$1730.
T TEFA TOTTOCHEDE LAD (A) 8 TO TI (Sec) J Secole	490-4 WARREDBYO LOUT ALD USE
I NAM INTO CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE PA	4.30: 1. WANDERING LIGHT (Nr R Walk-
8 SPOI VILPRANO (25 (2) 7 10 10	ley) 10-1; 2. Thetawhatthought 20-1; 3. Reduni Express 7-1. 24 ran. 100-30 fay
9 -24P5 DE DRAFE (Q 8 10 9 R Comby B	Farfadet V (brought down), 16, 7, (Capt T
10 5064PO MORTHERN FLASH (8) 4 100	Foreter Donaton's Teles C1200, Co. C.
-10 declared -	Forster, Downton). Tota: £12,60; £3,80, £11,40, £2,70. DF: £28,60, CSF: £187,70. Trio:
SETTING: 7-2 Manufactor, 5-1 What Jim Wards, 5-1 Topothercutions	297640, NR: Kiloby Bank.
lag, 7-1 Dockmanter, Killinchskip Lad, 8-1 Scarbo, 10-1 others	
	5.05: 1. SUPER COIN (N Williamson) 7-1;
	2. Sparky Gayle 3-1 tay; 3. Monnele Forte
A AD LIMITED STAVES (SLACE D)	5-1,14 ran. 2,11/4. (A Lee, Prestelone). Total
4.40 LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D)	2700; 2210, 2210, 2230, DF: 21280 CSF:
£5,000 added 1m 4f	£2755. Tricast: £110,34. Trio; £1700.
1 CES-10 AMADOUR (22) (CD) 582A NecCerty (8) 5	5.40: 1. ALEXANDER BANQUET (M-R
2 0350-4 ARTIC COURTER (22) (D) 7 8-0 M; Rimmer 4	Welst) 9-1; 2. Joe Mac 6-4 tay; 3. Frantic Tan 8-1 25 ran. 2's, 7. (W Mulins, Closurt-
	ton, Co. Carlow). Total \$1680; \$3.70, \$150
3 2000- MYSTIC OUEST (130) (CD) 490	5250 DF: \$500 CSF: \$2216 Tro: \$4730
4 2220 CUST ARCH (10 (CD) 590Harts Dayer 3	Jacksot: 64481420
C 10000 1000 PRI 100 ALCO CO. O. O	arabe impresi

Valenty 3-1; 2, Jose Marc 6-4 jary, 3, Frantic. Tam 8-1, 25 rent, 2%, 2, (W. Mulina, Cocunton, Co. Carlow), Total 51880; 5370; 5180; 5280 DF: 5500 CSP: 52216 Tree: 54730. Jackpost: 548540; Guadpott 53230. Place 6: 512075; Place 5: 55020. HUNTINGDON

HUNTINGDON

1.50: 1. SEIZE THE DAY (Mass M Coorbe) 4-1 far; 2. Weekend winter 50
1: 3. Current Speach 14-1; 4. Bigwig 9-1. 22 ran. 8; 1½, (M Coorbe) Waymouth; Tota: 5640; 190, 52170, 5170, 5230 Pr. 153830. CSP: 122250. Bigst: 5244557. This not won. NR: Vision of Freedom. 2.30: 1. OLO ROUVEL (D Galaghar) 1-2 far; 2. Lord Richfield 9-1; 3. Filecot 2-1. 19 ran. 15, 2½, (D Marray Smith, Upper Lambourn). Tota: \$1.50; 1230, 5240, \$2.90. DF: \$7.00. CSP: \$535. This: (\$3.90. 2.56: 1. SAMBOURE LO (J Gotdsten) 7-4 far; 2. Hardy Weather 14-1; 3. Bay Laugh 2-1 10 ran. 1. 5. (N Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham). Tota: \$2.30; \$1.20. \$400, \$1.90. DF: \$2590. CSP: \$2445. This: \$500.2. This: \$23.90. NR: Tailicherry.

3.25: 1. DISTANT STORM (Miss E. J. Jones) 9-2: 2. Lotschberg Express 3-1 fav. 3. Poty Amanashas 100-30. 7 ras. Nt. 5. (8. Lewellyn, Bargoed). Tota: (7.30); E180. E140. DF: 55.00. CSF: 517.63.
4.05: 1. TiLTY (A S Smith) 11-2 fav. 2. Equity's Darling 20-1: 3. Andenbar 20-1: 15 ran. 7. 4. (A Streeter, Utanceler). Tota: (7.80); £230. £180, £500. DF: £10.70 CSF. £1112. Tricast: £1.90.55. Thic: £17.760 NF. Ruckers Brwn.
4.40: 1. SIR DANTE (D O'Suffwar) 4-11 far. 1. Sit-ht (R Rows, Storrington). Fister 51.0, £10, £10, £760 DF: £2.20 CSF. £04.57.
5. 18: 1. JOHN BUSH (Devk Byrne) 11-1; 2. The Red Rector 9-1; 3. Chief Red Norther 11-10 fav. 14 ran. 2/5, 4 (P Eccles, Lemburn). Brite: £3180: £2.0. £2.0. £140 DF: £2.00. CSF. £15.34 Tric: £2.94. Place 6: £2.532. Place 5: £860.
NEWTON ABBOT

NEWTON ABBOT

1.56: 1.MISS DISKIN (B Powell) 5-2 fev.

2. Barrey Hill Lad 7-2: 3. Space Cappa
20-1 7 ran. 16. 4. (R Buckler). Tota: \$140.

21-40, £190. DF: £810. CSF: £140.

21-40, £190. DF: £810. CSF: £140.

22-1: 1. COOL AS A CUCUMBER (J. R
Kawangh) evers fav. 2. Pooh Stick 13-2.

3. Karlchigh Man 4-1 7 ran. 8. 2 k. (O Sharwood). Tota: £200, £260. £150. DF: £330.

CSF: £210. NR-Laybritheline.

3.05: 1. BLUE BLAZER (J Frost) 5-2; 2.

Brouhaldow 33-1; 3. Remember 5an: 66-1.

13 ran. 6-15 fav Cedite Park 5-1 (R Frost).

13 ran. 6-15 fav Cedite Park 5-1 (R Frost).

13 ran. 6-15 fav Cedite Park 5-1 (R Frost).

14 ran. 6-15 fav Cedite Park 5-1 (R Frost).

14 ran. 6-15 fav Cedite Park 5-1 (R Frost).

3. 48: 1. COMEDY GAYLE (M: Widd-combe) 7-2: 2. Ticket to The Moon 4-1:

3. True Fortame 13-6 fav 13 ran. 2. 25. (Me. Soe Wilcock). Rote: £530. £220. £130.

DF: £730. CSF: £1796. Tric: £330.

4.20: 1. DEFENDITHEREALN (J Frost).

8-1; 2. Norman's Convinced 25-1; 3. Pellandam Boy 2-5 fav. 7 ran. £2. 4 (R Frost).

14-4; 2. Who Am 17-4 fav. 3. Selatam 10-1.

18 ran. 2'h. 4 (R Frost).

5.30: 1. MYSTIC HILL (J Frost). 5-1; 2. NEWTON ABBOT

l pot: £18710, Quadpot: £58.60, 6: £165.80, Place 5: £100.40,

Lingfield

HYPERION

1.50 Don't Drop Bombs 2.20 Kass Alhawa 2.55 Stoppes Brow 3.25 Krystal Max 4.05 Palacegate Touch 4.40 Artic Courier 5.15 Herr Trigger

GOING: Standard. STALLS: St. m - outside, rest - inside DARW ADVANTAGE: Low in sprints.

© Equinos surface, light-hand, sharp unclusing course.

© ADMISSION: Club SO, Englosure DO, CAR PARKE, free.

EADMISSION: Club SO, Englosure DO, CAR PARKE, free.

EADMISSION: Club SO, Englosure DO, CAR PARKE, free.

SE (EST-), S Sandom SS-44 (PUT-), S Westernith SI-S44 (PUS-), FAVOURSTES: 76-250 (SUS-), Englosuring SI-S44 (PUS-), Englo

1.50 AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP DIV 1 (CLASS F) £2,500 added 1m | 3003 FALLED TO HIT (25) (5) 5 17 for J Tyberblomb (5) 18 |
(9553 ANCHOR WERTURE (25) 5 16 5 Jish K Southern (5) 9 |
30 105 ROMAN RES. (64) (70) 7 11 3 Jish J Moore (6) 4 |
50003 STANERK (60) 8 20 2 Dr. A Kincher (7) 5 |
040040 TAYOMRJAN (21) 4 10 1 Jish A Lidderdale (7) 6

~ 13 declared ~ Min-room 10st. Time handson weight: Despession Depo Bel Bib. BETTIMG-9-2 Salpas, 11-2 Desint Bosen, 6-4 From Laudes, 7-1 Singa Fright, 8-1 Dambys Gorsat, Super Sandy, Coubles, 10-1 uthers \$\text{CCS}\$ STUTISTICAN (21) (C) 6 (0 8. \text{Mr A Extra (5) 11 E} 6 CTS MOGN (22) (CD) (67) 5 (0 7 \text{Mr A Extra (5) 11 E} 55 (40) MYOCATION (10) (CD) 11 (10 5 \text{Mr A Extra (5) 12 FANCY (22) CO (23) Mr C Extra (5) (7) (0 60) \text{MST MR A Extra (5) 12 C) Mr C Extra (5) 12 Mr C Extra (6) 2 Mr C PORCOTA (6) 2 Mr

BETTING: 8-2 Roman Reel, 11-2 Don't Drop Bombs, 6-1 Anchor Ventura, Shibisician, 7-1 Mogle, 8-1 Failed To HR, 12-1 offerz 2.20 AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP DIV 2 (CLASS F) £2,500 added 1m

2.55 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 7f - 8 declared -- 8 declared -8ETTING: \$-2 Kryshi Max, 3-1 Nyullaul, 4-1 Rigo 'n Shine, 7-1 La Doyense, 8-1 Robo Magic, 10-1 Captain Carat, 14-1 others 4.05 CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

3.25 HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 | CRYSTAL MAX (S) (CT) 55 To pay (Controlly Has (S) 6 | MANGES (P45) (C) 489 ______ A Maner 2 | MYSTICAL (16) (CE) 488 _____ A McCarby (5) 5 Y

£3,000 added 6f 1 St-433 BASTERN PROPHETS (14) (2) 5 00 __ D Douby (7) 8
2 20042 PHALEBAKE TOUCH (15) (2) 6 00 _P Passey (2) 6 8
3 35-564 VHLAGE NATIVE (79) (2) (7) 5 9 7 ___ A Close 13 8
4 62202 WHLAGEN HALL AND \$5 98 _____ J Wisters 3
5 000144 PHEN GRZ (79) (12) (50) 59 8 _____ C Doubsell 10
00000 C WHITE GRAN (12) (13) 59 8 _____ C Doubsell 10



THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

American person considered for selection by independent manufacturer

10 Arm in brace, having suffered injury (7) Where old Italians were buried, under the mounain ash (7)

12 Girl with stony heart (5) Liquid gum application? Member of secret society

getting staff to accept note

Run of luck for batsman?

18 Give wrong directions, after initial failure of com-

pass? (9) Desire old soldier has to follow commander (5)

20 Characters from Perth make out in Eurodisney, for instance (5,4) 7
Travelling light, heading for Sydney next? (5)
Paperwork involved in re- 8

turning a DSS remittance initially maddens one (7) Pungent compound produced by American doctor, one used to coat nickel (7)

Top actresses seen of Penthesilea? (7.6)
DOWN 26

Bloom — character taken from Greek mythology (9)
Make one foreign article
which contains it (5)
Heat unit originally tested
on Channel Island (5)
Not sensible to have

recipe printed in "bold"?

Itchy palm possibly associated with flabbiness? (9) Italian city that is besieged by Poles should lead to an-

swer (5) Living quarters in settle-ment (13) But seen late in the evening? (13)
Rude man is jostling child

care assistant (9)
16 Procedure which may be च्या (9)

Humorous clergyman ap-pearing in a bow? (9) Home from home, per-haps, for English cricket team supported by the French (5)

Village artist one's seen in Knala Lumpur (5) Hesitant, vaguely idiomat-ic "ciao", perhaps, taking

Middlesbrough win the race • to sign troubled Gascoigne

Football

By Alan Nixon

MIDDLESBROUGH are to unveil Paul Gascoigne as their new £3m signing today after secret talks over the last 48 hours.

The Rangers and England midfielder is set to join Bryan Robson's promotion-chasing team and Coca-Cola Cup finalists. He could make an early appearance, even possibly against Norwich on Sunday.

The transfer fee is based on a down payment with a large proportion made up in appear- broke of a deal with Crystal ances to cover Middlesbrough Palace, confirming that Rangers

because of Gazza's injury problems. Gascoigne has been troubled recently by a calf strain and a hamstring injury at Rangers with reports that he has also had a stomach problem.

Those handicaps cost Gas-

coigne his England squad place on Monday when Glenn Hoddle also gave him a warning about his fading World Cup chances. Since that decision talks between Gascoigne's agent, Mel Stein, and Middlesbrough have been stepped up. Stein had been at Middlesbrough last week where news

at a secret location in Teesside last night awaiting a press conference at The Riverside today. Robson is a close friend of Gascoigne and feels his influence can bring out the best of

Gascoigne was believed to be

him this season and beyond. Palace's prospective owner, Mark Goldberg, will be disappointed at missing out on a high profile target with Gascoigne preferring to pick up his career in the Nationwide First Division.

The move south could not coigne was yesterday given a repetition will result in very se-"very severe warning" for his rious consequences."

would let their wayward star go. flute-playing mime during Rangers' Old Firm New Year match with Celtic. But the Scottish Football Association decided not to impose a financial punishment as Gascoigne was heavily fined by his club.

Celtic had written to the SFA complaining about Gascoigne's actions and asked them to investigate. The SFA deputy chief executive, Bill Richardson, confirmed yesterday: "The executive committee have given the player a very severe warning that this conduct must not occur again. He have come a better time. Gas- has been left in no doubt that a

Stein made it clear at the time. that the incident occurred when Gascoigne was being taunted about his private life. According to Tony Higgins, the secretary of the Scottish Players Union, barracking from supporters has reached an all-time high.

"Basically the SFA have made it clear that will take it very seriously when players make gestures," he said. "That's how the police view it as well.

"Fans have a duty to behave themselves and be aware of their actions. But I believe the level of abuse from supporters to players is higher than ever." More football, page 28

Peter was at its height, fans got

into the nursing home where his

suffered before Lee took con-

trol in February 1994.

Lee's suffering 'minor' compared with Swales'

FRANCIS LEE received only a taste of the treatment that drove the late Peter Swales out of Manchester City, according to the former Maine Road director Chris Muir, who stood shoulder to shoulder with his friend Swales as the campaign to bring Lee to power raged for months in 1993-94. "That campaign, in my view,

killed Peter Swales in the end," Muir said. "If Lee thinks he's had

it's just chicken feed to what Peter Swales had to endure." Lee quit as chairman on

Monday claiming the abuse from angry fans and pressure on. his private and business life had forced him out. Lee's wife, Gill, claims their lives had become

to you in the end; you say you don't listen or read about it, but it's hard."

However, Muit, now a director of Blackpool and a retired businessman, says he saw worse alongside Swales in the

it bad over the past few weeks, hell and the abuse had upset campaign that brought Lee to their family. She said: "It gets power four years ago. He added: "Compared to mother was being looked after

what Peter had to contend with this has been nothing. What happened to Peter was a disgrace, what Francis Lee has had to cope with is minor. When the campaign to oust

and caused trouble. His home was attacked, and fans spat in the face of his wife Brenda when she was out shopping." Both Lee and the "Forward with Francy" group disassociated themselves with, and condemned, the abuse Swales

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